JOHN BULL.

"FOR GOD, THE SOVEREIGN, AND THE PEOPLE!"

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PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY,

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CHIEF OFFICE—HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Summary of the REPORTS presented at the FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING, held on 3rd March, 1892.

ORDINARY BRANCH.—The new Annual Premium Income was £355,980.

The Premiums received during the year were £1,442,746, being an increase of £280,097 over the year 1890. The increase in the Premium receipts for the quinquennium 1887-91 was £1,045,806, giving an average annual increase of £209,161.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.—The Premiums received during the year were £3,688,338, being an increase of £170 413. The increase in the Premium receipts for the quinquennium 1887-91 was £777,043, giving an average annual increase of £155,408.

The total number of Policies in force was 9,617,484: the average duration is six years and three quarters.

The total Assets of the Company, as shown in the Balance Sheet, are £14,623,627, being an increase of £2,043,757 over those of 1890.

The Directors have again prepared a Supplement to the Report, showing in detail how the Assets of the Company are invested.

SUMMARY OF THE QUINQUENNIAL REPORT,
For the period ending 31st December, 1891.

The Directors have much pleasure in submitting their Report, and that of the Actuaries of the Company, upon the valuation of the Company's Assets and Liabilities, which has just been completed.

As on previous occasions, the processes and results of the valuation have been submitted to Mr. A. H. Bailey, and his report is also attached.

During the Five years now under review the Assets of the Company have grown from £6,811,954 to £14,623,627, being an increase of £7,811,673.

The annual premium income of both Branches combined, at the beginning of the quinquennium was £3,472,911, and at the end £5,386,990, being an increase of £1,914,079.

The valuation of the Ordinary Branch has been made upon the same principles as those of the preceding quinquennium—namely, a net premium valuation on the Institute of Actuaries' (H^M.) Table of Mortality for the life risks, and Mr. Finlaison's Government Annuity Table 1884 for the annuities, the rate of interest in both cases being 3 per cent.

The valuation of the Industrial Branch has also been made on the basis of a net premium valuation at 3 per cent. interest, the Table of Mortality being Dr. Farr's "English Life Table" No. 3.

At the beginning of the quinquennium a revision of the Tables of Assurance was made considerably in favour of those of the assured who keep their policies in force for five years. These increased benefits have been made retrospective, and, as will be seen from the Actuaries' Reports, a corresponding increase has been made in the necessary reserves.

The total surplus of the two Branches is £1,824,880.

General Balance Sheet of the Prudential Assurance Company, Limited, on the 31st December, 1891.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Shareholders' Capital	500,000	0	0
Ordinary Branch Funds	5,505,095	11	8
Industrial Branch Fund	8,582,207	16	9
Claims under Life Policies admitted	36,324	1	9
	£14,623,627	10	2

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
British Government Securities (Consols)	1,420,159	9	9
Railway and other Debentures and Debenture Stock	1,915,388	18	5
Loans on Municipal and other Rates	3,492,099	0	1
Freehold Ground Rents, and Scotch Feu Duties	2,119,643	1	5
Mortgages	1,912,365	14	3
Metropolitan Consolidated Stock and City of London Bonds	320,785	8	0
Bank Stock	167,337	0	1
Freehold and Leasehold Property	872,967	13	2
Indian and Colonial Government Securities	754,377	13	1
Reversions	139,454	16	0
Railway and other Shares	451,765	8	6
Loans on the Company's Policies	119,021	15	2
Loans upon Personal Security	707	10	0
Outstanding Premiums	359,396	9	0
Cash in hands of Superintendendents, and Agents' Balances	48,923	14	5
Outstanding Interests and Rents	126,534	12	3
Cash—On Deposit, on Current Accounts, and in hand	402,699	6	7
	£14,623,627	10	2

We have examined the Cash transactions, Receipts and Payments, affecting the Accounts of the Assets and Investments for the year ended December 31st, 1891, and we find the same in good order and properly vouched. We have also examined the Deeds and Securities, Certificates, &c., representing the Assets and Investments set out in the above Account, and we certify that they were in possession and safe custody as on December 31st, 1891.

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17th February, 1892.

THOS. C. DEWEY, WILLIAM HUGHES, } Managers.
W. J. LANCASTER, Secretary.

The full Reports can be obtained upon application to the Secretary.

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ADELPHI THEATRE.

This Evening at 8, THE TRUMPET CALL. Mr. Leonard Boyne, Messrs. J. L. Beveridge, L. Rignold, C. Dalton, Roberts, East, Russell, Cockburn, Keith, Drew, J. and W. Northcote, &c.; Miss E. Millard, Mrs. P. Campbell, Mrs. Leigh, and Miss C. Jecks.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

This Evening, at 8, HAMLET. Mr. Tree. Messrs. Fernandes, Kemble, Fred Terry, Macklin, Dacre, George Barrett, Allan, Watson, Hudson, Robb Harwood, Rose, Hallard, Bonn, Caravoglia, Warden, Crawley; Misses Rose Leclercq, Ivanova and Mrs. Tree.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

This Evening, at 8, KING HENRY THE EIGHTH. Mr. Irving; Miss Ellen Terry; Messrs. Terriss, Stirling, Howe, Bishop, Hague, Tyars, Farquhar, Beaumont, Haviland, G. Craig, Bond, Harvey, Lacy, Johnson, Archer, and Forbes-Robertson; Misses Vanbrugh, Le Thiere, Mrs. Pauncefort, &c.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

This Evening, at 7.45, THE GREAT METROPOLIS Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. Herberte-Basing, and Miss Ella Terriss.

GARRICK THEATRE.

This Evening, at 8.45, A FOOL'S PARADISE. Mr. John Hare and Miss Kate Rorke. At 7.55, MY DAUGHTER.

GAIETY THEATRE.

This Evening, at 8.30, CINDER-ELLEN UP TOO LATE. Mr. E. J. Lonnen and Mr. Fred Leslie. At 8, THAT LADY IN PINK.

STRAND THEATRE.

This Evening, at 8.40, THE NEW WING. Messrs. Willie. Edouin, G. P. Hawtrey, &c.; Misses B. Lamb, N. Boucicault, &c. At 8, THE COMPOSER.

COURT THEATRE.

This Evening, at 9.45, A PANTOMIME REHEARSAL, preceded by, at 8, A HIGHLAND LEGACY and, at 8.45, A COMMISSION. Messrs. Weedon Grossmith and Brandon Thomas.

CRITERION THEATRE.

This Evening, at 9, FOURTEEN DAYS. Mr. C. Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore. Preceded, at 8.15, by HEADS OR TAILS.

GLOBE THEATRE.

This Evening, at 8.20, A BOHEMIAN. Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. F. Everill, and Mr. Murray Carson; Miss Florence West, and Miss Maude Millett.

COMEDY THEATRE.

This Evening, at 9, THE GREY MARE Mr. Chas. H. Hawtrey, Miss Annie Irish, &c. At 8.10, LADY FORTUNE.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.

This Evening, at 8.30, WALKER, LONDON. Mr. J. L. Toole and Miss Mary Brough. At 7.30, ONE TOUCH OF NATURE. Mr. J. Billington and Miss Poole.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

This Evening, at 8.30, LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN. Mr. George Alexander and Mr. Nutcombe Gould; Miss Fanny Coleman and Miss Marion Terry.

TERRY'S THEATRE

This Evening, at 8.15, THE TIMES. Mr. Edward Terry and Miss Fanny Brough.

LYRIC THEATRE.

This Evening, at 8.20, THE MOUNTEBANKS. Misses Geraldine Ulmar, Alma Jenoure, Eva Moore, and Lucille Saunders; Messrs. Lionel Brough, Frank Wyatt, J. Robertson, F. Cook, A. Playfair, C. Gilbert, Porteous, Burt, and Harry Monkhouse Preceded, at 7.40, by THE SENTRY.

SAVOY THEATRE.

This Evening, at 8.50, THE VICAR OF BRAY. Mr. Barrington and Miss E. Brandram. At 8, CAPTAIN BILLY.

NEW OLYMPIC THEATRE.

This Evening, at 8, EAST LYNNE. Messrs. Bassett Roe, Frank M. Wood, J. C. Chute, and A. B. Cross. Miss Bertie Willis, and Miss Lesley Bell.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.

This Evening, at 8.15, BLUE-EYED SUSAN. Miss Marion Burton, Miss Kate Barry, Mr. Arthur Williams, and Mr. Arthur Roberts.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLEMENTS.

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BEWARE OF SPURIOUS IMITATIONS.

JOHN BULL.

LONDON, MARCH 5.

SHAM CONSERVATIVES AND THE CHURCH.

We can recall some discreditable scenes that have occurred in our time in the House of Commons. But for sheer time-serving—for shameless disregard of all principle—for utter betrayal of interests that should have been held sacred and defended at all hazards, commend us to the extraordinary exhibition which the so-called Conservative Administration made of itself on Friday in last week over Mr. HERBERT GARDNER'S iniquitous proposal to throw open for public meetings the schools which Churchmen have built and are maintaining. We should strongly object to Mr. GARDNER'S proposition even if it applied solely to school-buildings erected at the public expense. It is no part of the duty of the community at large to provide buildings for private individuals to hold meetings in. Let those who want to hold a meeting find a place for it themselves. If they are unable to obtain a suitable place, it is no one's affair but their own. We wholly deny that the holding of meetings is in itself necessary or even desirable; still less that it is a matter of public concern to facilitate the holding of them for any purpose whatever. We protest against public funds being employed in furtherance of what is not a public object.

But the matter assumes an infinitely graver aspect when the buildings which are to be placed at the disposal of the ratepayers belong to private individuals. The Church's schools were built by Churchmen at their own expense. The Government has in numbers of cases never contributed a single farthing to the raising of these fabrics. They have been erected by private subscription, and they remain private property. The attempt to justify this monstrous invasion of private rights rests on a mere verbal quibble. It is alleged that, as Government contributes to the maintenance of the Church schools, therefore the schools are not solely the property of the Church, and that the use of them should be thrown open to all. Who does not see the fallacy of an argument like this, based entirely on the ambiguous meaning of the word "school?" The "school" that is aided by public grants is the body of young scholars who are being educated. The "school" which it is proposed to throw open indiscriminately to the public is the material fabric of bricks and mortar towards which not a farthing of public grant has ever been contributed.

What can be more ridiculous than the contention that, because the State helps to buy education for the children at a particular building, it is entitled to use that building for other purposes? You might as well argue that the fact of your buying your meat at a particular shop entitles you to the use of the butcher's premises. The Government having paid for one thing, and having got what it paid for, now demands something else into the bargain—something which has *not* been paid for. The Government has already received its *quid pro quo* from the Church. It has made its grants and has received full value in return in the shape of efficient schooling for the children. The business transaction between the two parties is completed. By what right does one of them claim anything more?

And see, next, how the principle of the thing—so utterly iniquitous in itself—will actually work in practice. Imagine the feelings of the Churchmen by whose piety and generosity alone these schools have been erected to the glory of God and the bringing-up of children in Christian faith and godliness, when they hear of the use to which their gifts are to be put. Republicans, Socialists, Atheists, Radicals, Boothites, Malthusians, Fenians—the whole ragged regiment and rabble of Revolutionists, sedition-mongers, teachers of false doctrine, spouting demagogues, blatant blasphemers, and political mountebanks—each and all of them will be claiming to put to their own base uses buildings devoted to Christian education. By the side of this monstrous injustice it is a comparatively small thing that the fabrics and the furniture of the schools are sure to suffer. Smashed windows, broken forms and desks, the odour of stale tobacco smoke, and general dirt and disorder—these are pleasant surroundings with which to begin school next morning. Then there is the serious hindrance meetings must cause to the carrying on of Church work of all kinds which, in most parishes, is conducted in the school buildings on at least several evenings of the week.

These considerations would constitute, even by themselves, an amply sufficient reason against the present proposal. If we do not emphasise them, it is because they are almost insignificant in comparison with the crowning enormity of turning a gift which the donors intended to be the means of extending true religion and useful learning into an instrument for the propagation of every kind of anti-Christian falsehood. Yet this is the interesting scheme to which a Conservative Government has thought fit to lend itself. Mr. BALFOUR and his colleagues are perfectly well aware of its ultimate aim. The one great obstacle—as Mr. CHAMBERLAIN has several times pointed out—to the compulsory extinction of the Church Schools has always been that, as their fabrics were private property, the State could not abolish the Church Schools without incurring the vast expense of providing new buildings for itself. The present proposal has the ulterior purpose of preventing the Church at any future time from claiming her own school-buildings as her sole property. That is the enemy's plot against the Church, and the Conservative Government is obliging enough to ensure its success beforehand.

Ministers and their supporters may, if they please, pretend to ignore the tiresome clergymen with consciences, and equally unreasonable and over-scrupulous laymen also, who persist in uttering all sorts of hard things about the Government, and in making uncomfortable threats about the next Election. The letters on this subject which we print in another column are, however, only specimens of the numerous communications, similar in tone, which reach us daily. Those whose duty it is to feel the pulse of public opinion know very well that the sentiment of Churchmen on this subject is one of unutterable disgust and of indignation that will make itself felt at the polls. Our Conservative Ministers doubtless think otherwise. Their trust is that all Churchmen and Tories will vote for the Conservative candidates in any case, and that their feelings may therefore be safely disregarded. If such be our Leaders' frame of mind, we can but assure them that they are destined to be rather rudely undeceived on that score at no very distant date.

THE POPE AND EUROPE.

The French Republic has just got its twenty-seventh Ministry, formed by M. LOUBET, of whom nobody outside of France and hardly anybody in it has ever heard before. The new Cabinet is composed of nearly the same materials as the last, with the somewhat important difference that M. CONSTANS leaves office. The efficient Minister of the Interior who pricked the Boulanger bubble, has perhaps been sacrificed to propitiate M. DE FREYCINET, who is believed to regard him as a formidable rival at the next Presidential Election. The ex-Premier himself, M. DE FREYCINET, whose popularity as the re-organiser of the Army is deservedly great, remains at the War Office; M. ROUVIER (another ex-Premier) retains the portfolio of Finance; and M. RIBOT is once more Foreign Minister. The new Ministry has already explained its policy in both Chambers. By far the greater part of the Ministerial declaration is devoted to the question of Church and State. There is no ascertainable difference between the respective policies of the last Cabinet and of this one. Like its predecessor, the LOUBET Ministry dare not offend the Radicals by responding to the overtures of the clergy, who have professed their willingness to "accept" the Republic. All the allusions to the Church in M. LOUBET'S declaration are couched in terms of studied coldness if not of insult.

On the other hand, the new Ministry is not prepared to advocate the abrogation of the Concordat: in other words, it does not yet go to the full length of recommending the State to repudiate an obligation deliberately undertaken by confiscating the miserable pittances granted to the Bishops and clergy by way of partial compensation for the loss of the vast property held by the Church before the Revolution. Meanwhile the iniquitous Bill on Associations—one of the most deadly blows which even the Republic has ever aimed against the Church—is not abandoned; and it is needless to add that none of the anti-Church legislation of the last twelve years is to be modified in the slightest degree. The situation is, in brief, as follows:—The Church has made overtures to the State, declaring its formal adhesion to the Republic and its abandonment of the alliance with the Royalists, and expressing a hope that the Republic will assume a more conciliatory attitude towards the Religion which the vast majority of Frenchmen profess. The reply is to the effect that no concession will be made by the State, and that although resort may not yet be had to the extreme measure of repudiating the Concordat, the threat of repudiation will be held over the clergy *in terrorem* to force them into submission.

This is all that the POPE gains by his recent Encyclical declaring the Republican form of Government to be possessed of a right as Divine as that of Monarchy, and enjoining the Royalists to give up all hope of a Monarchical Restoration. The Encyclical has utterly disheartened the Royalists, who were always faithful to the Church; while it has excited the cynical contempt of the Radicals, who are quite shrewd enough to see that the Vatican delayed its formal adhesion to Republicanism until the prospects of its Royalist allies had seemed to reach their lowest ebb. We do not forget the frequently made allegation that there is a large Moderate Republican party who would be willing to arrive at a *modus vivendi* with the Church. If, however, any such body of opinion exists, where is it to be found? What influential politicians are its spokesmen in or out of Parliament? What journals are its exponents in the press?

Nothing can be more certain than that the Church and the Republic can never be reconciled in France. The imposter, BOULANGER, owed much of his success to the promise that the Republic should be made "habitable" for all. The idea is attractive, but chimerical. It is based on the delusion that the Republic can be tolerant. Republicanism in France has never been anything but a grossly anti-Christian tyranny—a system absolutely worked for their own evil ends by a small but compact and determined knot of violent Atheists, who rule their countrymen through their courageous tenacity, the completeness of their organisation, and the ingenuity of their wirepulling.

While the religious factor in the situation is thus potent in France, it is hardly less so in Germany. It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of the new educational policy of the German Government, by which it is intended to guard the rising generation from the evil influences of irreligious teaching. That policy finds no more cordial supporters than the German Catholics. The opposition of the Liberal party is eminently characteristic of Liberals everywhere. They never raise the slightest objection to the tyrannical policy of forcing Christian parents to pay for, and even to send their children to, schools which are either

openly Atheistic (as in France), or Secularist (as in this country). The liberality of Liberals does not extend in this particular direction. But no sooner are steps taken by public authority to ensure the religious education of children, the vast majority of whose parents desire to have them so educated, than your Liberal—as now in Germany—is up in arms in defence of the "liberty" of depriving Christian children of their Faith.

The German Emperor may or may not have said some things that are neither wise nor prudent. But every right-minded person should applaud his bold endeavour to assert the rights of the vast majority of his subjects in this matter of education. Of course he is opposed by the so-called Liberals. Of course his policy is simply detested by those against whom it is chiefly aimed—the Socialist-Atheistic party, who may not improbably have taken advantage of the distress prevalent among a number of workmen in Berlin to stir up the riots of last week. But we have not the least doubt that the Emperor William has behind him the immense preponderance of public opinion in carrying out his determination to adopt a policy the spirit of which is curiously antithetical to that which actuated the celebrated Falck Laws.

While the Head of the Roman Catholic Church is engaged, with varying success, in promoting the interests of Religion in France and Germany, it is becoming every year a matter of increasing concern that one who wields powers which so intimately affect the internal condition of great nations like France and Germany should exercise them in absolute independence of any other secular Government. To point to the fact that the Pope is the Head of the largest Christian body in existence is to indicate the unanswerable reason for preserving his authority from encroachment at the hands of the Italian Monarchy.

To allege, as Italians do, that the *status* of the Pope in Rome is a strictly internal and domestic affair of their own, as to which they will brook no interference, is to ignore patent facts. Every Power in Europe—indeed, in the world—that owns Roman Catholic subjects is directly interested in maintaining the independence of the Head of their Faith. As to the plea that the Italian Law of Guarantees is sufficient for this purpose, it is obvious to point out that the Italian Parliament can at any moment revoke that law, and that a not inconsiderable political party in Italy is pledged to revoke it. In the interesting address delivered this week by Mr. Lilly at Birmingham, the speaker seemed to think that the Vatican itself might conceivably be willing to come to terms with the Italian Monarchy—apparently on the basis of an international guarantee of the Pope's independence. We are satisfied that some arrangement of the kind will ultimately have to be made, and the sooner that necessity is recognised by Italy the better for the Catholic world generally, and the better for Italy's own internal prosperity.

The first volume of the late Field Marshal von Moltke's correspondence, which was published in Berlin last week, is more likely to attract students of military tactics than the general reader. The book deals mainly with the period of the war between Prussia and Denmark in 1864, and throws an interesting light on the manner in which, even at that early period, the military power of Prussia was being developed and consolidated, with a view to future eventualities. For instance, in a Memorial addressed, on June 30, 1863, to Field Marshal von Roon, who was at that time Minister of War, Count von Moltke urged the necessity of making the arrangements for military concentration, so that the army might be ready to take the field, not only against Denmark, but also possibly against France. He also pointed out that the plans must be so framed as to render possible, from the very beginning, the solid co-operation of the whole of South-West Germany, and especially Bavaria.

Reviews.

GOOD QUEEN BESS.*

Queen Elizabeth is the only representative of her sex among the *Twelve English Statesmen* commemorated in the excellent series now in course of publication by Messrs. Macmillan. There can be no reasonable doubt as to her claim to this exceptional distinction, and Professor Beesly, while nothing extenuating, setting down nought in malice, has well vindicated that claim. The admirers of the great Queen may, perhaps, demur to the portrait of her which he has given, and her detractors will certainly maintain that it errs on the side of a too favourable appreciation of her merits. But to the dispassionate observer he will probably appear to have fulfilled the promise held out by the quotation from Tacitus, which he has placed upon his title-page, writing as he does, "*Sine irâ et studio, quorum causas procul habeo.*" It has, of course, been impossible for him, in the small space at his disposal, to do more than touch on the more important episodes of the great Queen's career, or to deal in other than a perfunctory manner with the fierce and probably interminable controversies which have gathered round that career. But he has given a vivid and lifelike sketch of the long reign of forty-five years which had so important a bearing on the history of England. It has been the fashion of recent writers to dwell with special emphasis upon the parsimony and stinginess of the great Queen, accusing her of having starved all the enterprises in which she engaged, and of having had, as her main object, the saving of money rather than the efficient prosecution of those enterprises. Without a doubt, she grudged the expenditure of money, and was only too glad if her subjects would do at their own expense what she wished to be done; but it may fairly be questioned whether a more liberal expenditure would have produced better results, and she certainly made the most of the resources at her disposal. Another charge brought against her, both as regards her Scotch and her foreign policy is that it was irresolute and vacillating, but this, too, is thus excused by her present biographer:—

> In her intellectual grasp of European politics as a whole, and of the interests of her own kingdom, Elizabeth was probably superior to any of her counsellors. No one could better than she think out the general idea of a political campaign. But theoretical and practical qualifications are seldom, if ever, combined in equal excellence. Not only are the qualities themselves naturally opposed, but the constant exercise of either increases the disparity. Her sex obliged Elizabeth to leave the large field of execution to others. Her practical gifts therefore, whatever they were, deteriorated rather than advanced as she grew older. In men, who every day and every hour of the day are engaged in action, the habit of prompt decision and persistence in a course once adopted, even if it be not quite the best, is naturally formed and strengthened. It is a habit so valuable, so indispensable to continued success, that in practice it largely compensates for some inferiority in conception and design. Elizabeth's irresolution and vacillation were therefore a consequence of her position—that of an extremely able and well-informed woman called upon to conduct a Government in which so much had to be decided by the Sovereign at her own discretion. The abler she was, the more disposed to make her will felt, the less steadiness and consistency in action were to be expected from her. As the wife of a King, upon whom the final responsibility would have rested—her inferior perhaps in intellect and knowledge, but with the masculine habit of making up his mind once for all, and then steering a straight course—she would have been a wise and enlightened adviser, not afraid of consistently maintaining principles, when the time, mode, and degree of their application rested with another. As it was, Cecil and other able statesmen who serve her had not only to take their general course of policy from their mistress—a wise course upon the whole, wiser sometimes than they would have selected for themselves—but they were embarrassed, in their loyal attempts to steer in the direction she had prescribed, by her nervous habit of catching at the rudder-lines whenever a new doubt occurred in her ingenious mind, or some private feeling of the woman perverted the clear insight of the sovereign.

Those advantages which her sex gave her are again and again dwelt upon by Professor Beesly, especially in reference to the project of the Alençon marriage, where, after describing the course of the negotiations and the way in which she utilised them to make the French King commit himself to an armed intervention in the Low Countries, he thus proceeds:—

> All this is very unscrupulous, very shameless, even for that shameless age. Hardened liars like Henry and Alençon thought it too bad. *They* were ready for violence as well as fraud, and availed themselves of whichever method came handiest. Elizabeth also used the weapon which nature had given her. Being constitutionally averse from any but peaceful methods, she made up for it by a double dose of fraud. *Dente lupus, cornu taurus.* It would have been useless for a male statesman to try to pass himself off as a fickle impulsive, susceptible being, swayed from one moment to another in his political schemes by passions and weaknesses that are thought natural in the other sex. This was Elizabeth's advantage, and she made the most of it. She was a masculine woman simulating, when it suited her purpose, a feminine character. The men against whom she was matched were never sure whether they were dealing with a crafty and determined politician, or a vain, flighty, amorous woman. This uncertainty was constantly putting them out in their calculations. Alençon would never have been so taken in if he had not told himself that any folly might be expected from an elderly woman enamoured of a young man.

But the woman undoubtedly suffered from this use of her womanly prerogative by the Queen, and the striking passage in which the concluding scene in her eventful life is described is a severe but not unfair commentary on the price paid by the woman for the Queen's success as an English statesman:—

> The long career of Elizabeth was now drawing to its close. Her sun might seem to be going down in calm splendour. She had triumphed all over her enemies. She might say with Virgil's heroine—
>
> "Vixi, et quem dederat cursum fortuna, peregi;
> Et nunc magna mei sub terras ibit imago."
>
> The mighty Philip had gone to his grave five years before her (1598), a beaten man, having failed in Holland, failed in France, failed against England. Of the three great champions who withstood him, Elizabeth, if not the most distinguished by high qualities, had yet, perhaps, the largest share in saving Europe from the retrograde tyranny which menaced it. The glorious resistance of William of Orange covered only sixteen years (1568-84). That of Henry IV. can hardly be said to have had any European importance before his accession to the French throne, from which date to the peace of Vervins and the death of Philip is a period of nine years (1589-98). But the whole of Elizabeth's long reign was spent in abating the power of Spain. It was the persistent, never-relaxing pressure from an unassailable enemy which wore out Philip, as it afterwards wore out Bonaparte. Elizabeth had found England weak and distracted: she was leaving it united and powerful. Nor was she of those to whom their due meed of praise is denied during life, and accorded only by the tardy justice of posterity. Her wisdom and courage were the admiration not of her own people alone, but of all Europe. "Her very enemies," says a French historian, "proclaimed her the most glorious and fortunate of all women who ever wore a crown." From the point of view of public life, little or nothing was wanting—so Bacon thought—to fill up the full measure of her felicity.
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> Yet it seems that the last months of her life were clouded by melancholy, and deformed by a querulous ill-temper. Some have suggested that she suffered from remorse for her severity to Essex; others that she felt herself out of sympathy with the Puritan tendencies of the time. It is not necessary to resort to these unfounded or far-fetched suppositions to account for her gloom. If we turn from her public to her private life, what situation could be more profoundly pitiable? Honour and obience, indeed, still surround her. But that which also should accompany old age, love and troops of friends, she might not look to have. Near relations she had none. Alone she had chosen to live, and alone she must die. As her time approached, she was haunted by the consciousness that, among all those who treated her with so much reverence, there was not one who had any reason to be attached to her or to care that her life should be prolonged. Those who have not loved when they were young must not expect to find love when they are old. While health and strength remained, she had tasted the satisfaction of living her own life and playing the great game of politics, for which she was exceptionally gifted. But to a woman who has passed through life without knowing what it is to love or be loved, who has no memory of even an unrequited affection to feed on, who has never shared a husband's joys and sorrows, never borne the sweet burden of maternity, never suckled babe or rocked cradle, who must finish her journey alone, sitting in the solemn twilight before the last dark hour uncared for and uncaring, without the cheer of children or the varied interests that gather round the family—to such a one, what avails it that she has tasted the excitement of public life, that she has borne a share in politics or business—what even that her aims have been high or that she has done the State some service, if she has renounced the crown of womanhood, and turned from their appointed use those numbered years within which the female heart can find present joy and lay up store of calm satisfaction for declining age.
>
> Elizabeth was not, indeed, an admirable type of womanhood, but it may be doubted whether a nobler type of woman would have done so well for her country, or have so triumphantly surmounted the formidable and complicated difficulties which she had to face. Her present biographer protests, and rightly protests, against the picture given of her by some modern

* *Twelve English Statesmen—Queen Elizabeth.* By Edward Spencer Beesly.—London: Macmillan and Co., 1892.

historians, who profess to have discovered that she was "a very poor ruler, selfish and wayward, "short-sighted, easily duped, fainthearted, rash, "miserly, wasteful, and swayed by the pettiest "impulses of vanity, spite, and inclination." Were this portrait a true one, it would, indeed, be matter of surprise how she could have been so successful a Queen, or have merited Carlyle's eulogium, with which the biographer fittingly concludes his volume. "Queen Elizabeth of "famous memory; we need not be ashamed to "call her so." It is not only her crowning triumph of the Armada which justifies this eulogy, but also, as Professor Beesly well points out, "the skill and firmness with which, "during so many years, she staved off the "necessity for decisive action," and by prolonging the formal peace with her formidable neighbour rendered it the more possible, when the struggle came at last, for that struggle to be brought to a favourable issue. This is in itself a great claim on the gratitude of Englishmen, even if we do not attach so much importance as we ought to the period of peace, prosperity, and good government which she thus secured for her subjects, and, as is well said, it is difficult to do justice to the great recovery of England during that period unless we fully realise how low the country had sunk when Elizabeth ascended the throne.

A very striking chapter of the book before us is that devoted to the Papal attack made upon Elizabeth by Gregory XIII. and the Jesuits, when tired of waiting for the help of Spain they resolved to take matters into their own hands. From this we must make the following interesting extract :—

In England a revivalist movement was to be carried on among the Catholics by the missionaries. Catholic writers have been at great pains to argue that this was a purely religious movemnet, prosecuted with the single object of saving souls. The Jesuits have always known their men and employed them with discrimination. Saving of souls was very likely the simple object of a man of Campion's saintly and exalted nature. He himself declared that he had been strictly forbidden to meddle with worldly concerns or affairs of State, and nothing inconsistent with this declaration was proved against him at his trial. But without laying any stress on statements extracted from prisoners under torture, we cannot doubt that his employers aimed at re-establishing Catholicism in England by rebellion and foreign invasion. This was thoroughly understood by every missionary who crossed the sea; and if Campion never alluded to it even in his most familiar conversations he must have had an extraordinary control over his tongue.

The evidence that the assassination of the Queen was a recognised part of the Jesuit plan, determined by the master spirits and accepted by all the subordinate agents, is perhaps not quite conclusive. If proved, it would only show that they were not more scrupulous than most statesmen and politicians of the time. Lax as sixteenth century notions were about political murder, there were always some consciences more tender than others. It is likely enough that Campion personally disapproved of such projects, and that they were not thrust upon his attention. But he can hardly have avoided being aware that they were contemplated by the less squeamish of his brethren.

Campion and Parsons came to England in disguise in the summer of 1580. Their mission was not a success. It only served to show how much more securely Elizabeth was seated on her throne than in the earlier years of her reign. In his letters to Rome, Campion boasts of the welcome he met with everywhere, the crowds that attended his preaching, the ardour of the Catholics, and the disrepute into which Protestantism was falling. He had evidently worked himself up to such a state of ecstacy that he was living in a world of his own imagination, and was no competent witness of facts. He crept about England in various disguises, and when he was in districts where the nobles and gentry favoured the old religion, he preached with a publicity which seems extraordinary to us in these days when the laws are executed with prompt uniformity by means of railways, telegraphs, and a well-organised police. In the sixteenth century England had nothing that can be called an organised machinery for the prevention and detection of crime. If an outbreak occurred the Government collected militia, and trampled it out with an energy that took no account of law and feared no consequences. But in ordinary times it had to depend on the local justices of the peace and parish constables, and if they were remiss the laws were a dead letter. There were no newspapers. The high-roads were few and bad. One parish did not know what was going on in the next. Campion could be passed on from one gentleman's house to another on horses quite as good as any officer of the Government rode, and could travel all over England without using a high-road or showing his face in a town. If he preached to a hundred people in some Lancashire village, Lord Derby did not want to know it, and before the news reached Burghley or Walsingham he would be in another county, or perhaps back in London—then, as now, the safest of all hiding-places. Thus, though a warrant was issued for his arrest as soon as he arrived in England, it was not till July in the next year (1581) that he was taken, after an unusually public and protracted appearance in the neighbourhood of Oxford.

He had little or nothing to show for his twelve months' tour, and this although the Government had, as Allen hoped, allowed itself to be provoked into an increase of severity which seems to have been quite unnecessary. The large majority of Catholic laymen would evidently have preferred that both Seminarists and Jesuits should keep away. They did not want civil war. They did not want to be persecuted. They were against a foreign invasion, without which they knew very well that Elizabeth could not be deposed. They were even loyal to her. They were content to wait till she should disappear in the course of nature and make room for the Queen of Scots. Mendoza writes to Philip that "they place themselves in the hands of God, and are willing to sacrifice life and all in the service, *but scarcely with that burning zeal which they ought to show.*"

By the bull of Pius V., Englishmen were forbidden to acknowledge Elizabeth as their Queen; in other words, they were ordered to expose themselves to the penalties of treason. If the Pope would be satisfied with nothing less than this, it was quite certain that he would alienate most of his followers in England. Gregory XIII. therefore had authorised the Jesuits to explain that although the Protestants, by *willingly* acknowledging the Queen, were incurring the damnation pronounced by the bull, Catholics would be excused for *unwillingly* acknowledging her until some opportunity arrived for dethroning her. Protestant writers have exclaimed against this distinction as treacherous. It was perfectly reasonable. It represents, for instance, the attitude of every Alsatian who accords an unwilling recognition to the German Emperor. But the English Government intolerantly and unwisely made it the occasion for harassing the consciences of men who were most of them guiltless of any intention to rebel.

The position occupied by Elizabeth towards the English Church is not altogether so satisfactorily dealt with, and we venture to doubt if her religious attitude was so entirely dictated by political considerations as the writer seems prepared to affirm. Nor is his sketch of Elizabeth's great rival altogether free from partisan prejudice. Indeed, it is hardly possible to write about Mary Queen of Scots without taking a side, and his view that she was the victim of a mad passion for Bothwell, and his implicit belief in the authenticity of the Casket letters, sufficiently account for his most condemnatory estimate.

There is more novelty in his defence of Leicester, whom he is prepared to rate far more highly than most historians have done, and he justifies the Queen's nomination of him to the command in the Low Countries, which has been generally regarded as the most striking proof of her womanly partiality. Another of her favourites, Essex, fares by no means so well, and we are almost inclined to think that sufficient justice is not done to him, as more than justice is done to Leicester.

PERIODICALS.

The *Fortnightly Review* this month is solid rather than brilliant. Lord Kelvin leads off with a learned paper on the "Dissipation of "Energy," in which the President of the Royal Society arrives at the following conclusion :—

The doctrine of the Dissipation of Energy forces upon us the conclusion that within a finite period of time past the earth must have been, and within a finite period of time to come must again be, unfit for the habitation of man as at present constituted; unless operations have been, and are to be, performed which are impossible under the laws governing the known operations going on at present in the material world.

The subject of Sir Richard Temple's article on the "Growth of the Population of India" deserves the closest attention. The writer observes with truth that the rapid increase in her population is a welcome sign of India's material progress; but that it imposes an additional burden of anxiety and responsibility on this country.—Mr. Samuel Montagu, a great authority on matters financial, treats of the "Dangers of Modern Finance," and advocates certain new arrangements with regard to the Bank of England.—Archbishop Walsh indites a somewhat indignant, and not wholly unjustified, rejoinder to Mr. T. W. Russell's rabid Orange attack on Roman Catholic educational policy in Ireland.—The Nihilist writer, "Stepniak," prophesies (what most observers have already anticipated) that the Russian Famine must prove a powerful ally of the cause of Revolution in Russia. The dire distress of the peasantry — whose condition, since their "emancipation" from serfdom, has been far worse than it was in the old days—must unquestionably breed political discontent. It does not follow, however, that under existing conditions an attempt at rebellion would have any prospect of success. Successful revolt needs organisation and co-operation, to say nothing of arms. The Czar's army would make short work of a peasant revolt. "Stepniak" understands all this perfectly well, but states that the Nihilist propaganda has been persistent and not unsuccessful in the army itself. But we cannot admit that the fact of Nihilism having been proved to exist amongst the troops shows that it is really widespread. And, even if there are many Nihilists in the army, there remains the difficulty of effective combination among them. It will need more information than we yet possess on the subject to convince us that any attempt at rebellion in Russia would not be promptly suppressed with a severity sufficient to deter the malcontents from any similar outbreak for a very long time to come. Even "Stepniak" does not venture to prophesy a revolutionary outbreak this year or next, though he darkly hints that it might come at any time. Meanwhile, it is at least interesting to observe that Russia is adding one more to the list of examples furnished by history of the punishment that is sure to overtake those nations that dare to oppress the Chosen People. —The remaining papers in the *Fortnightly* are "Mr. Meredith in his Poems," by Professor Dowden; "Physical Insensibility of Woman," by Professor Lombroso; "France in the Four-"teenth Century (the Jews)," by Mdme. Darmesteter; "Thoughts of a Humam Auto-"maton," by H. Blanchamp; and "The Military 'situation in Madagascar," by "Vazaha."

The *Nineteenth Century* has an unusually long list of contributors this month—seventeen in all. Two papers relate to physical science: Mr. Norman Lockyer's on "New Stars," in which he maintains his theory that these phenomena are produced by the clash of meteor swarms; and Mr. J. E. H. Gordon's on "The Latest Electrical Discovery," recounting Mr. Tesla's achievements, which have been already described in our columns.—Lord Vernon advocates the total prohibition, for the future, of the settlement of land or houses. Cheapening land transfer has failed; Lord Cairns's Settled Estates Act has not fulfilled its object; let the owner, therefore, have the power to get rid of his property, without any restriction. The law of settlement has made us "a nation of tenants instead of owners. . . . "The existence of the House of Lords will not be "prolonged by the spectacle of ruinous family "mansions and farms falling into decay."—Mr Arnold Taylor explains that Hodge would not dislike the parson if the latter did not form a "ring" with the squire and the farmers and were not "identified with one political party." —Mr. Frewen Lord lectures Italy on her unbusinesslike way of conducting her affairs, public and private. One fifth of Southern Italy is out of cultivation for lack of capital. Foreign capital is kept away by insecurity and by the prospect of endless litigation in law courts where the administration of justice is a mere farce. Italians neglect their opportunities for trade: witness the amazing ignorance and lack of enterprise shown by the wine-growers. The functions of Government are ill-performed, while there are hordes of useless officials. Want of sanitation causes frightful mortality. Yet Italy's capacity for prosperity is vast. Education, too, is improving; progress is made in some directions; the people are very sober, and the workmen extremely adaptable. "What the land "cries out for is a strong man with common "sense."—From Baron Ferdinand's de Rothschild's gentle prattle about "French "Eighteenth-Century Art" we infer that his notion of a work of art is—something that can be sold at Christie's! But he tells a good story of Lord Hertford :—"Lord Hertford kept late hours, "and his valet had strict orders never to "disturb him in the morning. 'You may call "'me at eight if there is a Revolution,' was the "injunction, 'not otherwise!' On the morning "of the 24th of February, 1848, Lord Hertford "was called at eight. 'What is up?' he muttered; "'is it a Revolution?' 'Yes, my Lord, it is,' was "the reply."—The Countess of Aberdeen writes of a successful experiment in a large house in Scotland to form a club for the household, with entertainments and lectures. It is suggested that something of the kind might be arranged in cases where friends' houses are near together. —Mr. Alfred Hoare proposes an Act of Parliament to provide for the repayment of the Metropolitan Debt, by empowering the County Council to buy up existing stock at a premium; by the conversion of the three Metropolitan Stocks into one permanent stock (with the holders' assent); by an enactment that a fixed proportion of the net debt should be raised in rate every year; by applying the sinking fund to buying up stock below par or to its accumulation towards paying off the whole at par—existing stockholders un-

willing to convert being safeguarded.—Mr. Traill, returning to the subject of "Minor Poets," condescendingly adds several names to his former list.—Mr. Archibald Forbes collects statements made about Napoleon III. at Sedan, correcting them, where need be, from his own personal observation. He relates that after the Emperor had surrendered he stayed for the night at the Château Bellevue, and next morning went away into captivity. Mr. Forbes went to lodge at the château, and had the bedroom occupied by Louis Napoleon. At the bedside there lay open, face downwards, a volume taken from a book-case near. The book was Bulwer Lytton's novel, *The Last of the Barons*.—Mrs. Lynn Linton is characteristically plainspoken in her denunciation of "The Partisans of the Wild "Women," who are "totally wanting in intellec- "tual dignity," "preferring emotion to reason." When they are "men of low birth, and large "ambition, they are wise enough to know that "the drawing-rooms of society will remain for "ever shut to them unless they can open them "by the magic formula of a cause. Also they are "wise enough to know that women only have the "key to those closed doors."—The Countess of Cork writes very pleasantly on "Some Social "Changes in Fifty Years"—a wide subject, ranging from improved lighting of streets and shops, decrease of small-pox, increase of spectacle-wearing, the introduction of broughams and hansom-cabs, and the extension of railways, to the change in young men's manners at dances, the improved *cuisine* of modern dinners, and "the *salon*, unrivalled then as now, in her own "and in every country, of Viscountess Palmer- "ston."—M. Delille has much that is interesting, if not very new, to tell us about the French (that is, the Parisian) newspaper press. On one point he makes a noteworthy suggestion. Newspaper kiosques in our London streets would certainly "look better and serve better than the "*al fresco* bundles of papers at street-corners, and "bills of contents lying prone along the gutters." —The subject of London County Council policy is treated from opposite points of view by Mr. John Burns and Mr. R. E. Prothero.

Macmillan's Magazine opens with an important paper by Professor Freeman on Finland, whose ancient constitutional rights and privileges are now being menaced by the Czar.—Mr. Marion Crawford's "Don Orsino" is continued.—The revival of *Hamlet* by Mr. Beerbohm Tree gives Mr. Mowbray Morris an opportunity of discussing "Hamlet and the Modern Stage."—Prebendary Harry Jones writes on the "Hours of "Labour," and Mr. C. R. Haines foretells that the "Universal Language" of the future is to be English.

The leading feature of the *Century* is the series of extremely fine drawings of St. Paul's Cathedral by Mr. Joseph Pennell. That they are exquisitely reproduced "goes without saying." There is also an illustrated memoir of Paderewski, the pianist.

Newbery House Magazine contains a second instalment of Mr. Vaux's interesting and amusing "Church Folk-Lore," including such subjects as the survival of the division of the sexes in churches, of the custom of bowing at the *Gloria* and to the Altar—why does Mr. Vaux say that this "used to be" done at Christ Church, Oxford?—the custom exists still. As to Daily Services, Mr. Vaux mentions efforts made early in the last century to institute them. We may add that Archbishop Tenison, who certainly was not a High Churchman, started four daily services at St. James's, Piccadilly, and four at what is now St. Thomas's, Regent-street. A few years ago it was calculated that in the whole parish of Westminster the number of daily services was less by *one* than it had been a century earlier.—Dr. Hayman concludes his eloquent and effective reply to Professor Goldwin Smith on "Disestablishment." There are other good papers.

The *Economic Review* for the current quarter opens with a paper on "Poor Relief in Italy," by Professor Nitti, from which we gather that the system has only reached an elementary stage. At present every attempt at reform finds its way barred by "the state of the public "revenue," a subject already referred to above. How little the Revolution has done for the poor in Italy is very evident.—Professor Cunningham puts in "A Plea for Pure Theory" in matters economic.—Dr. Fry formulates "A Social Policy "for Churchmen," in which he treats of the housing of the poor, the facilities for drunkenness, the claims of old age in the labouring class, parish councils, representative government in the management of elementary schools, hours of labour, lending school-buildings impartially for meetings, and co-operative societies. We respect the writer's motives, but he begs a good many disputed points.—Mr. Chandler, writing of "Mazzini's Political Philosophy," takes occasion to express his admiration for that individual's "noble morality" and "unequalled insight into the spiritual issues of "political and social life;" but discreetly omits all reference to his hero's advocacy of Assassination—which, to be sure, would come in rather awkwardly in connection with the "noble "morality" theory of Mazzini's character. In point of fact there never lived a more contemptible ruffian, unless it were Garibaldi. —Mr. L. Phelps advocates what some who share his views would term a "generous" measure of "reform" for Endowed Charities. Our own words for describing the process would be different.—Besides these and other articles, Mr. Prebendary Jones contributes to the "Notes and Memoranda" an interesting account of the Farmers' and Gardeners' Supply Society, by means of which poor people in London can obtain fresh vegetables cheap, direct from the growers. There is more sturdy sense in a scheme of that kind than in all the chatter of all the Radical dons in Oxford and Cambridge put together. By the way, we suggest to the conductors of the Review that it would be an improvement to their Table of Contents to state in it the subjects of the different "Notes and Memoranda" and "Reviews."

The *Royalist* for January 30th—this magazine is published at the end of each month—has some excellent criticisms of the Associations Bill, by which French Republicans aimed a fresh blow at the Church; the third parts of a notice of Hobbes's *Leviathan* and of a biography of Henry IX., and an account of Edge Hill; with other interesting matter.

The *Leisure Hour*, following the modern fashion of dragging into publicity matters which *étiquette* used to conceal, is publishing a series of papers on leading newspapers and the prominent members of their staffs. This month Mr. Massingham describes the *Daily News*. An article on Russian statesmen includes notices of M. de Giers and M. Pobiédonostzeff, the latter of which names is identified in this country with the persecution of the Jews.—There is also a biographical notice of the Chinese statesman, Li Hung Chang.

To "Wanderings in the Holy Land," the series now appearing in the *Sunday at Home*, Mr. H. A. Harper supplies some good illustrations.—We have also received the *Boy's Own Paper*, *St. Nicholas*, the *Argosy* (in which a new story, by the late Mrs. Henry Wood, has recently begun), the *Strand Magazine*, the *Ludgate Monthly*, and *Parents*.

The *Season* presents all its familiar attractions. The latest Paris fashions are described by able pens, and illustrated by clever draughtsmen, many of the pictures being excellently done in colours. The letterpress is wholly good, many of the articles being of exceptional value to ladies. It is not surprising that this fashion magazine has become so popular amongst those for whom it caters.

SHORT NOTICES.

Miss Mozley, best known to most readers as editor of her brother's works, and of Cardinal Newman's Letters, was also a prolific anonymous contributor to periodical literature. A volume of selections from her contributions to that literature has just been published by Messrs. Blackwood, under the title of *Essays from Blackwood*, which is not strictly accurate, as one of the essays here reproduced, that on "Adam Bede,"—which is by no means the least interesting of them, and was the first to suggest the theory of the feminine authorship of that novel—appeared in *Bentley's Quarterly*, a "short-lived, but able periodical," as it is described by Miss Mozley's biographer, which ran its brief career in 1859-60. The biographer in question has been assisted by the Bishop of Salisbury, whose slight but graceful record of his impressions and recollections of Anne Mozley, prefixed to the present volume, adds much to its attraction. His Oxford acquaintance with her and her brother, the Regius Professor, well qualifies him to speak of her, not only in her literary capacity, but as the elder sister of that highly gifted brother, and as a sister who "had not only a "most unselfish love for him, and an abundant "and discriminating admiration of his powers "and writings, but a tender solicitude that he "should shine and be appreciated." The essays here reprinted are, not including that on "Adam Bede," eight in number, and well display the refined style and delicacy of treatment for which the writer was distinguished, a specimen of which had already been given to the world in her articles from the *Saturday Review* republished in two volumes under the title of *Essays on Social Subjects*, which have reached a fourth edition. Some of those in the present book deal with literary subjects, as Social Hyperbole and Illustration, the use and abuse of each of which are well pointed out and exemplified. That on La Bruyere is an excellent specimen of refined criticism, and the moralist there criticised furnishes a text for the essay that follows, dealing with "The Four Ages," one of which was described by him as "l'âge viril que nous n'esti- "mons pas assez," an opinion in which Miss Mozley concurs. The essays entitled Poets at Play and Hymns of the Populace are each in their different way very amusing, and this epithet is not, as it might seem, an incongruous one, for the latter, as in it the writer gives some curious specimens from Richard Weaver's Hymn Book, a precursor of the Moody and Sankey and Salvation Army hymnology, which, though much improved in grammar, have rendered the eccentricities of taste there exhibited more familiar to us than they were to the readers of *Blackwood* at the time of Miss Mozley's article. The essay on Temper is rather more commonplace, but that on Schools of Mind and Manners gives a graphic sketch of girls' education as it was.

Another collection of essays of a very different type, certainly less refined, but, as their admirers would probably say, more robust, is to be found in the two volumes just published by Messrs Macmillan, in which, under the rather happy title of *Horæ Sabbaticæ*, Sir James Stephen has reprinted some of the numerous articles contributed by him to the *Saturday Review*, with which he was so long connected. Many of these have, if we mistake not, already appeared in a previous republication, entitled *Essays by a Barrister*, but some of them are now re published for the first time. It is not, of course, to be expected that the standpoint from which the essayist surveys the subjects of which he treats will be altogether acceptable to those who differ from him, as we do, both in matters political and matters ecclesiastical. But, at the same time, we must acknowledge the rare literary ability which marks the various essays, and, when he abstains from dealing with controversial matter and confines himself to the province of the historian and the literary critic, he has much to say which is well worth listening to. And, even when dealing with controversial matters, he endeavours to hold an impartial balance, as in his sketch of Archbishop Laud, where he dissents as strongly from Lord Macaulay's view that he was a ridiculous old bigot as he does from the opposite view—which he characterises as "unreal and fanciful," but which we should ourselves be prepared to maintain—that "idealises him into a saint and a martyr." The essayist confesses that it would be very difficult for any fair critic to speak with contempt of the Archbishop, but pronounces him on the whole to have been "a learned, well meaning, and, in "his way, liberal-minded college don." At the same time he goes out of his way to give vent to a hardly veiled sneer against the late Bishop of Capetown, and the whole essay is an indication of the great inability to appreciate the ecclesiastical point of view which characterises all the present Sir James Stephen's writings.

In the first, however, of his two volumes of *Horæ Sabbaticæ* now published the interest is mainly historical, and the essays on Joinville, Froissart, and Philippe de Comines are very favourable specimens of the writer's powers Next follows one on Montaigne, who is not only himself the most delightful of essayists, but also the cause of the most delightful essays in others. But Sir James Stephen does not deal so lovingly with the vain and garrulous, but delightful old gentleman as most of his commentators, and profanely denounces him as the parent of the modern penny-a-liner.

The rest of the first volume deals mainly with the literature and history of the period of the great rebellion, containing, in addition to the article on Laud, of which we have already spoken, articles on Hooker, Chillingworth, and Jeremy Taylor—the latter possessing a special attraction for the essayist—on Lord Clarendon's writings, and in Hacket's life of Archbishop Williams, which he pronounces to be one of the most characteristic books, from which we derive our knowledge of the early part of the seventeenth century. The second volume of the series is almost wholly given up to the philosopher and the philosophic divine, and in it Sir James Stephen passes in review the writings of Hobbe and Locke, Bayle and Voltaire, Butler and Warburton, Mandeville and Conyers, Middleton, Hume, and Gibbon. It may seem somewhat strange to find Bossuet in this company, but the two essays devoted to the Bishop of Meaux are full of interest, and exhibit the essayist at his best. Altogether, the collection, though, as we have said, we need hardly guard ourselves from being supposed to express

an approval of the views which it expresses, is of remarkable interest, and very well worth reading. The writer is skilled in controversy, and never, we think, consciously unfair, though his inability to enter thoroughly into the devotional as opposed to the sceptical view, often leads him to be so unconsciously.

It cannot be said that the author of the next book, which we find on our table, errs on the side of scepticism, and Father Morris in his *Ireland and St. Patrick* (Burns and Oates) has indulged in a very rhetorical and uncritical view of the career of the Saint himself, and of the history of his country. Though his eloquence is somewhat turgid at times, he is never dull, and the intensity of his own convictions is obvious, though he certainly fails to convince his readers. He himself confesses to a "some-"what *ex parte* tone," which is calculated to prejudice the ordinary reader, and his ready acceptance of the legendary longevity of the Saint, which he assumes as the foundation of some of his arguments in support of his connection with St. Martin, is a difficulty to be got over. It is not an unfair summary of his view to say this, because the dates require that St. Patrick should have lived to the age of 120 years in order to render it possible for him to have been so connected, therefore the legend that he was so connected is proof indisputable that he lived to that age. As may be supposed, he is quite incredulous as to the alleged Bull of Adrian IV., and Dr. Lingard's confession that the charge of barbarism brought against the Irish by Giraldus Cambrensis can neither be repelled nor evaded is a bitter pill for his co-religionist, who endeavours more energetically than successfully to refute that charge. When he comes down to later days, and would trace the influence of St. Patrick, he balances Mr. Lecky against Mr. Froude, and even calls in Mr. Trench as a witness on his behalf. He appeals, moreover, to Mr. Aubrey de Vere as the great historical poet of the day, and is apparently prepared to rely upon his poetical utterances as irrefutable historical testimony, while consoling himself for some of Carlyle's severer utterances by a vision of him "in his weary and disappointed old "age poring over the *Acta Sanctorum* in the "London Library." One other evidence of the abiding presence of St. Patrick in Ireland to which he refers is the character of the Irish Catholic clergy, and his picture of them is somewhat difficult to reconcile with our experience of later years, when so many of them have set at nought even the authority of the Pope, when that authority was exercised on behalf of law and order and the repression of agrarian crime. That they have been the most sagacious leaders of the Irish people, and have done more to stifle the Revolution than Coercion Acts, is a somewhat bold assertion, and a significant veil is drawn over their presence at the polling booths, and their tyrannous dictation to the free and independent electors. No one would dream, if his knowledge of the subject were confined to Father Morris's book, of the denunciations from the altar with their often fatal results, and the cruel spiritual boycotting which have formed so painful a feature in the recent history of his unhappy country.

Mr. R. Elliot Steel's volume, *The World of Science* (Methuen and Co.) contains a surprising amount of information in a small compass. It embraces chemistry, heat, light, sound, magnetism, electricity, botany, zoology, physiology, astronomy and geology. The 147 illustrations are intelligible and well executed. This is an elementary text-book, adapted not only for the young, but also for older people whose knowledge of natural science is somewhat defective. The style of the book is bright and attractive, and the information accurate and modern. We heartily recommend it.

A writer bearing the *nom de plume* of "Water-"dale" is the author of a volume intended to throw *Fresh Light on the Dynamic Action and Ponderosity of Matter* (Chapman and Hall, Limited). His primary aim is "the discovery "of some reason, other than the hypothesis of "attraction, to account for the gravitation of "one body towards another." The writer's idea is that "the force of gravity between two "bodies is the effect of shelter mutually afforded "from opposite wave forces;" and he proceeds to show how this hypothesis can be made to harmonise with Newton's great law. The discussion of the new theory leads to the tentative enunciation of a number of others, for a description of which we must refer those who are interested in deep scientific problems to the volume itself. On the merits of the author's arguments it would be undesirable to express a decisive opinion without entering into a detailed discussion of questions too abstruse for that kind of treatment in our columns. But the book is evidently the fruit of much thought and pains, and is not devoid of suggestive ideas, several of which are ingeniously worked out.

ARTS AND LETTERS.

The sculptor, Mercié, has completed the model of the Meissonier statue. The painter is represented in a meditative attitude, often assumed by him. Clad in a dressing-gown, he is seated with crossed legs in an arm-chair, his head, slightly inclined, resting on his right hand. In his left he holds a palette and sheaf of pencils. On one face of the pedestal will be inscribed the master's name, on the others those of his chief works. A flag thrown over the steps at its base will leave exposed, in its folds, the cocked hat of Napoleon, a cuirass, and a cavalry sabre.

The valuable music library of the late King Charles of Wurtemburg has been bequeathed by the deceased monarch to the Conservatorium of Stuttgart.

The hundredth anniversary of the birth of Rossini was celebrated last Monday in several cities of Italy, and especially at Pesaro, his birthplace. At Paris, the home of his adoption, a performance of *William Tell* was given in the Opera House. Mdme. Albani, the creator of the contralto part in several of the great composer's works, sang "Non più mesta" at a gathering of friends at the house. Verdi wrote:—"I greatly praise and admire the celebration which will be made of the centenary of Rossini, who was a great and real glory to Italy. My age and the state of my health will, I hope, be sufficient reasons to excuse my absence."

To the ever-increasing number of prospective participators in the forthcoming Vienna Exhibition may now be added the St. Cecilia Academy, of Rome, the oldest musical institution of its kind in existence. The Academy will contribute to the exhibits a great number of valuable historial documents and other articles of special interest in connection with musical art.

In the course of this year's Bayreuth Festival performances will be given from July 21 to August 21 inclusive, there will be eight representations of *Parsifal*, and four each of *Tannhäuser*, *Tristan und Isolde*, and *Die Meistersinger*. Among the artists of the Berlin Opera, Mesdames Sucher, Staudigl, and Herzog have been again engaged by Frau Cosima Wagner.

An influential Paris committee, at the head of which is the Duc d'Aumale, is organising a display of works of art to be held in June, and to be entitled "The Exhibition of the Hundred Masterpieces." As in 1883, when no less a sum than £4,000 profit was netted, the proceeds of the undertaking will be given to charity. The works of art are limited to paintings which have not been shown publicly in Paris during the last quarter of a century. Nine years ago the pictures contributed were almost without exception the property of French collectors. This time valuable assistance is confidently looked forward to from Austrian, Belgian, American, and English owners of masterpieces.

It appears that *Robin Hood and Maid Marian*, Lord Tennyson's new play, will be produced by Mr. Daly at his theatre in New York, on March 17th, and simultaneously rehearsed by Mr. Irving at the Lyceum, for the sake of copyright. Messrs. Macmillan and Co. will publish the full text on March 29th, in London and New York. Mr. Daly has received a letter from Lord Tennyson, wishing him all success, and saying from what he knows of Miss Ada Rehan, "he is sure that she will play her part to perfection." Alluding to American actors, he continues, "When Mr. Jefferson was in England I saw him play Rip Van Winkle, and assuredly nothing could have been better." Sir Arthur Sullivan has written both incidental music and the music for the songs in Lord Tennyson's play, and the woodland scenes are taken from Mr. Whymper's pictures of Sherwood.

Sir Augustus Harris has made another addition to the company he has retained for the Royal Italian Opera during the coming season by the engagement of Miss Margaret Macintyre. Miss Eames and Signora Salvé, among others, have also been secured; but even now the list of leading sopranos is probably not yet complete. We are likewise informed that negotiations are in an advanced state by which Sir A. Harris hopes this season not only to revive *Cavalleria Rusticana* with a strong cast, but also to produce at Covent Garden, for the first time in England, Signor Mascagni's latest opera, *L'Amico Frits*.

Mr. Gladstone is said to receive a 100gs. for each of his articles in the *North American Review*.

The Bishop and Dean of Salisbury have fixed Wednesday the 9th of March, for the inauguration of the memorial bust to Richard Jefferies by Miss Margaret Thomas, the Australian sculptor. The bust has been placed on the west face of the great north transept, and is supported by a bracket, also of marble, having this inscription on the die:—

"To the memory of Richard Jefferies. Born at Coate, in the parish of Chisledon and county of Wilts, 6th November, 1848. Died at Goring, in the county of Sussex, 14th August, 1889. Who observing the works of Almighty God with a poet's eye, has enriched the literature of his country and made for himself a place amongst those who have made men happier and wiser."

The Congregation of Sacred Rites at Rome have addressed a circular to the principal composers and musicians of different countries, including England and the United States, soliciting their views on the subject of profane and sacred music. The Vatican, it is stated, wishes to reorganise the sacred music, entirely eliminating from it the profane element. A document bearing upon this question, addressed to the Church, will shortly be published.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

ACROSTIC RULES.

A Prize of One Guinea is given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics appearing in the *John Bull*.

The present monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on March 5, 12, 19, and 26.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competition so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic addressed to the Acrostic Editor of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 3.

(February, 1891.)

1.	S	ARCOPHAGU	S
2.	H	OUR	I
3.	O	URANG-OUTAN	G
4.	R	ADIS	H
5.	T	IPPE	T

Solutions have been received from Iden, White Hat, Ancient Briton, Chameleon, E.A.F., Robin, Grasmere, Noryb, Erica, Hadji, Chelmsford, Boozlewax, Dunston, E.V.P., Elle, Remlaw, M.A.E.B., Sociable, Doobeg, The Griffin, and Molly.

Remlaw.—Presbyter cannot be accepted.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 1.

(March, 1892.)

Proem.

Swiftly in this you are whirled along
In the midst of a gay and giddy throng.

1.

Followed oft with horse and hound.

2.

Woos the ear with sweetest sound.

3.

This to uphold all loyal men agree.

4.

Sleep it brings that a last sleep may be.

5.

From love of learning he at least is free.

JOHN BULL.

LONDON, March 5.

There is always something satisfactory in seeing any art brought to the state of perfection, even when it happens to be the art of impudence. To Mr. O'Kelly belongs the proud distinction of introducing into the House of Commons a Bill which for insolent effrontery is really matchless in the annals of Parliament. Everybody knows that the Plan of Campaign was a criminal conspiracy between certain Irish tenants to refuse to pay their just debts, although well able to pay them. That infamous combination was condemned as immoral by the Pope, as illegal by the Courts of Law: even Mr. Gladstone censured it. The conspirators were beaten at the game of their own choosing. They were ultimately evicted from their holdings, which have now for years been occupied by other tenants, or are being farmed by the landlords themselves. It almost passes belief that Mr. O'Kelly should now actually propose that all these arrangements are to be upset—that these defeated conspirators shall have the right of compelling their former landlords to take them back again as tenants; the new tenants, who have entered upon their holdings under the full sanction of the law of the land, being turned adrift, and being liable to be sent to gaol if they refuse to leave. But it is almost startling to learn that the whole Gladstonian party supported this tyrannical and immoral measure, which is intended to confer on dishonest men—and by reason of their dishonesty—privileges which no honest man is permitted to share. Happily the Bill was thrown out by the substantial majority of 55; and we would fain believe that there must be many Gladstonians in the country who utterly disapprove of its provisions.

By the remarkable majority of 228 to 14 the House of Commons on Thursday affirmed the principle of the scheme for widening Parliament-street and improving Westminster. The long-deferred hopes of Londoners are once more raised at the prospect of something being done in this matter. The absolute necessity from a practical (to say nothing of the æsthetic) point of view of widening the principal approach to the Houses of Parliament has been universally recognised and repeatedly discussed for more years than we care to remember. Hitherto the obstacles in the way have been insuperable. The widening of Parliament-street, of course, means the demolition of its western side and the setting-back of the frontage on that side to a considerable distance. The enormous expense of this improvement has always constituted the chief difficulty. As a rule, the cost of widening thoroughfares in the Metropolis is supposed to be met by the increased value of the new frontage. The case of Parliament-street is, however, peculiar. If the west side is set back as far as it ought to go, the space then left between it and King-street will be too narrow a site for really good buildings possessing a valuable frontage. The only way out of the difficulty is to extend the scheme, and to ask Parliament for powers to block up King-street and to acquire the land behind it. That, however, is a class of undertaking which lies outside the scope of anything that Parliament has ever permitted, either to the old Metropolitan Board, or to the London County Council. It is a salutary rule that public bodies shall not embark on extensive speculations in land; and not even the Office of Works itself has ventured to ask Parliament to grant it the powers necessary to carry out a genuine scheme of Westminster improvement.

If, then, the thing is to be done at all, it can only be in the manner proposed by the Bill now before Parliament, namely, by means of private capital. It is to be assumed that every precaution will be taken, and stringent guarantees demanded, to ensure the responsible character of the persons who are to carry out so large an undertaking. The scheme itself embodied in the Bill is not new, and has stood the test of searching inquiry. In two previous Sessions it has received the sanction of both Houses. It is approved by the Office of Works, by the London County Council, by the Westminster Vestry, and by various influential bodies directly concerned—such as the National Society and the Middlesex County Council. The utter insignificance of the opposition may be judged from the figures of Thursday's division.

Thus there is good ground to hope that one of the most urgently-needed improvements in the Metropolis is within measurable distance of being carried out. If it is, we shall a few years hence see the grand thoroughfare from Charing-cross to Westminster made of a uniform width throughout, the ground required for the widening of Parliament-street being handed over to the public free of a single farthing of expense. The narrow and dingy, though historically interesting thoroughfare of King-street will disappear. The dismal alleys and yards, and decaying buildings beyond it will be cleared away. The large piece of land near the India Office, and belonging to Government, that has been lying waste for more than a quarter of a century, will be bought from the nation. On this site new buildings will be erected and streets constructed. Lastly, Parliament-square, already a fine open space, will be very considerably enlarged westwards. Whether the project can be carried out or not remains to be seen; but the delay in widening Parliament-street will have been well worth waiting for if it can be had at last on terms so advantageous to the public as those now offered.

We are told that the opinion of the intelligent foreigner represents the judgment of posterity. The following extracts from the New York journal, *Truth*, tells us what the intelligent foreigner thinks of Mr. Gladstone. The writer says:—"Two views there must necessarily be of the character and career of every public man. The great man who still, in his eighth decade (partly), dominates the world of politics in the old country is exhibited on the magic-lantern sheet of the American Press in the changeless aspect of a demigod. His human side is as rigorously guarded against the irreverent eye as if he were garbed in the holy coat of Trèves. And yet we pride ourselves on our penetration, and on the pluck with which the newspapers insist on giving the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about everybody. Staggering as the statement must be to the Gladstonolators, their hero is really, after all, pretty much of a common human biped like the rest of us. He 'aint no saint' in his workaday apron as a practical politician. If it is not flat blasphemy to breathe it ever so gently, there is just a possibility that the astute old man, who spent half a century in boxing the political compass, is as true a son of Mother Eve as ever won eminence in the fine art of equivocation. Dare we cite daylight facts as proofs? Mr. Gladstone's ablest lieutenant, and the only fit heir to his master's intellectual headship, is the Right Hon. John Morley. His testimony to Gladstone's unique qualification for statecraft was plainly stated when he wrote these words, 'Mr. Gladstone's mind is a mint of logical counterfeits.' In saying this, Mr. Morley was only echoing, after practical experience, what Lord Macaulay had so shrewdly discerned just half a century ago. He wrote, 'The more strictly Mr. Gladstone reasons on his premises, the more absurd are the conclusions he brings out, and he is reduced sometimes to take refuge in arguments inconsistent with his fundamental doctrines, and sometimes to escape from the legitimate consequences of his false principles, under cover of equally false history.' We shall see how nicely his performances have justified the prediction. John Ruskin said not long ago: 'There is one political opinion I do entertain, and that is, that Mr. Gladstone is an old windbag. When he makes what is called a great speech, in nine cases out of ten he uses his splendid gifts of oratory not for the elucidation of his subject, but for its vaporisation in a cloud of words.' Carlyle was brutal, as usual:—'Mr. Gladstone has gone about pouring out speeches without end, speeches which may be measured literally by the mile, and never a word of sense can I see in the whole of them.' Lord Beaconsfield's more polished rapier tapered off to this rib-tickling point: 'Mr. Gladstone is a sophistical rhectorician, inebriated by the exuberance of his own verbosity.' And Earl Russell, pioneer in all sound Liberal reforms, has left this on record:—'Mr. Gladstone's measures have reduced the great and glorious empire of which he was put in charge to a manufactory of cotton cloth and a market for cheap goods, with an Army and Navy reduced by paltry savings to a standard of weakness and inefficiency. By his foreign policy, Mr. Gladstone has tarnished the national honour, injured the national interests, and lowered the national character.'

"Were these men incapable judges of character, or did they deliberately falsify the facts of Mr. Gladstone's career? Let us see. Mr. Gladstone started in his public life as a Tory of the Tories, as a valiant defender of the right, legal, moral, and scriptural, to hold slaves. His pertinacious eloquence gained the family fortune of some 340,000dols., paid to his father and uncle as compensation when the English people freed the slave. But to-day this same Gladstone is the champion of ultra-Radicalism and universal liberty—except for Toryism to occupy office. How came the conversion about? The great statesmen of England have been men who espoused a principle and a cause in the evil days when minorities are ridiculed, but who have carried the flag steadily on until the day of victory. Those were statesmen. Mr. Gladstone has been a politician, one of those who stand by their principle, or interest, very valiantly indeed up to the hour when their cause is all but lost, when they skip over to the enemy and proudly place themselves among the victors. For example, Mr. Gladstone opposed the repeal of the Corn Laws and then joined those who repealed them; he opposed the grant to the Roman Catholic College of Maynooth, but lived to make the grant himself of 2,000,000dols.; he opposed the disestablishment of the Irish Church up to the eleventh hour, and then assumed the glory of being its disestablisher; he opposed the ballot, and then graciously conferred it as a boon; he opposed the repeal of the Church rates, and then repealed them; he opposed the extension of the franchise, and then made a bid for popularity, which that time failed; he spoke in Parliament in favour of universal suffrage, and then walked out of the House when the vote was taken; he vowed that the income tax should only be a temporary one, and every time he held office he not only retained it but increased it; he professed a horror of American slavery, but rejoiced that Jefferson Davis and his Cabinet 'have made an army, they are making a navy, and what is even of more importance, they have made a nation, so far as regards their separation from the North.' Mr. Gladstone professes to pity the impoverished labourers and mechanics of England, yet he 'has no inclination to murmur at the prospect of America wresting from us our commercial prosperity.' He denounced the Parnellites as inventors of a seditious conspiracy involving rapine and murder, he imprisoned the leaders on suspicion without trial, and is now the bright particular star of hope of the very same persecuted party. Fifty years of unvarying sudden desertions of the losing causes for the winning ones is quite a different thing from an occasional slow process of conversion.

"As a statesman—*i.e.*, politician in power, Mr. Gladstone's successes are less conspicuous than his failures. He pledged himself to economy, but his last five years of office cost the taxpayers 77,000,000dols. more than in the previous five years of Tory rule. He extracted more than double the amount of Income-tax in the same period. Pauperism in Ireland increased by over 90,000 under Mr. Gladstone, and its agrarian outrages rose from 1,961 in six years under Beaconsfield to 12,089 in the five years under Gladstone. 1880-84 the cost of governing Ireland was increased under Gladstone by nearly 3,560,000dols. a year. Out of office Mr. Gladstone tickled his Socialistic supporters by pointing to the wealth of the aristocratic Tory Cabinet. It consisted of sixteen members, of whom eight were Peers, with a total annual rent roll of 1,020,000dols. Mr. Gladstone's own Cabinet, 1880-85, consisted of sixteen persons, of whom eight were Peers, and their total rent roll amounted to 1,705,000dols. Mr. Gladstone is a stout upholder of the hereditary Peerage. He appointed his then very young son, Stephen, to one of the richest livings in the Church, worth 15,765dols. a

year. His deceased son was made a Treasury Lord, with 5,000dols. a year. He made his nephew, Lord Wolverton, Secretary to the Treasury, with a total salary of 170,000dols. Mr. Gladstone held two offices at one time, being Premier and Chancellor of the Exchequer, for which he drew a salary and a half. Himself and family have drawn from the public treasury in salaries to date 800,000dols., besides pensions. Personal prejudice counts in most of his dealings, as illustrated in his sudden change of front to Mr. John Dillon. On October 7, 1881, Mr. Gladstone sought to ingratiate himself with the doughty patriot, saying to his face in the House of Commons: 'Mr. Dillon is an opponent whom I delight to honour.' On the 10th inst., Dillon resented the attempt to use him against his friends, and in his speech he said: 'Mr. Gladstone's reputation for honesty in politics is a false reputation, and is based upon the power of skilfully misrepresenting facts.' On the 13th inst. Mr. Gladstone clapped his honoured opponent into prison without any charge, and kept him there five months without any trial. As an ardent lover of peace, Mr. Gladstone plunged into the Crimean war, the Russo-Turkish war, the war in the Soudan, and perpetrated the shameful abandonment of General Gordon in Khartoum. Thousands of lives and millions of treasure wasted in pursuit of what—glory or power, national or personal? As an orator, Mr. Gladstone is long-winded, verbose, involved, wearisome to a degree. He loses himself in Latinised English, and nobody has yet been able to produce a single epigram, witticism, or bit of eloquence that has passed into common speech as a popular saying. Yet, for all this, Gladstone is a very wonderful man, because of all this, perhaps."

Mr. Dixon Hartland brought forward on Tuesday, in the House of Commons, a resolution in favour of the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the administration of the London School Board. In the course of an admirable speech he demonstrated the importance of an inquiry by facts and figures that the ratepayers will do well to study. He pointed out that "the cost of the School Board up to March 23, 1891, had been no less than £26,399,066, less about £1,000,000 for payment of loans. The debt was £7,309,000, and the interest and repayment on that amount was about £400,000 a year, or 3d. in the £, the amount which they were told in 1870 would never be exceeded. Even as late as 1875 the rate was only 3d. in the pound, and now it was 1s., with every probability of the rate increasing a penny per year for some years to come. If the rateable value of the metropolis had continued as it was in 1871 the rate would have been 1s. 6d. in the pound, but the increase in that value from £19,970,000 to £33,000,000, or 65 per cent., had alone kept the rate to 1s. The rate had increased by leaps and bounds during the last three years, and it might be said that this was due to the great increase of scholars. But what were the facts? In 1891 the average attendance was only 14,130 more than in 1889. While the increase of the rates had been 44·15 per cent., the increase of attendance had been only 4·12 per cent. In 1875 the precept of the Board was for £551,247, whereas in 1890 it amounted to just a million and a half, or about treble. To show further that the vast increase of expenditure was not accounted for by the additional numbers educated, he might state that while in 1883 240,000 children were educated for £679,595, in 1891 it cost £1,403,290 to educate 349,291 children, or more than double the amount to educate only 100,000 more."

It was not difficult, Mr. Dixon Hartland said, to account for this extraordinary increase in expenditure. Given a body of men, many of whom had no practical acquaintance with business, and some of whom were possessed by impracticable notions, and given still further that they were not bound by the limitations which affected men who were carrying on business on their own account, but had a practically unlimited fund on which to draw, and it stood to reason that an extravagant expenditure would follow almost as a matter of course. When they considered, too, dishonesty in contractors, carelessness of the Board, gross negligence of architects and clerks of works, and fraud in the purchase of sites, it was not difficult to see how the expenditure of the School Board had so enormously and rapidly increased. To all this had to be added the exorbitant salaries paid to staff and teachers, and all those matters could be investigated by a Royal Commission. The School Management Committee was one of the great spending departments of the Board, and it at present paid to teachers £910,790 a year, the salaries rising automatically. The teachers now received 52s. 4d. per child, or 1s. 10s. more than in 1890, and he found that a very large number of them were husbands and wives. Seven of those couples received over £600 a year, twenty-eight over £500, twenty-seven over £400, forty over £300, and 108 over £200 a year, whilst there were only twenty-one receiving under £200 a year. The highest single salary paid to a teacher was £460. He could only say that if the teachers were worth all this money they were too good, or too expensive, for Board schools. The salaries of the teachers had increased during the last ten years 107 per cent. to nearly one million sterling, or 7d. in the pound on the rates, with no increase of educational progress or practical training, and whilst the average from 1886 to 1888 was £1 17s. 2d. per child per annum only for school management, it was now in 1891 no less than £2 9s. 1d. The following, taken from the report of the Committee of Council on Education for 1890-91, page 26, would show how much higher this cost was than that in the Voluntary schools:—

"We may mention, with regard to the principal teachers in the metropolitan district, that in the past year the average salary of 368 masters in the Voluntary schools was £192 18s. 2d., and that of 379 masters in Board schools £283 10s. 10d., while 762 schoolmistresses in Board schools enjoyed an average income of £199 11s. 5d., as compared with £90 18s. 6d. —that of 797 teachers in Voluntary schools. The salaries of eleven masters in Voluntary schools and 167 in Board schools amounted to £300 a year and upwards, whilst three mistresses in Voluntary and 366 in Board schools had salaries of £200 and upwards."

And to show that the cost was beyond that of other districts it would be found that teachers of equal capacity outside the London School Board received salaries from 25 to 33 per cent. less and did their duty equally to the satisfaction of the Government inspectors.

Dealing with the question of sites, he showed that the cost up to September, 1891, was £3,044,682, with legal and surveyors' charges. The sites were selected (previous to 1885) and many during the recess by the Board's surveyor, Mr. Andrew Young, a man who had no practical knowledge, having simply been a clerk in the finance department. These sites were in many cases costly and unsuitable, and the surveyor had his own brother (Mr. Douglas Young) as auctioneer to sell the materials on such sites, and naturally he did not select sites where materials had not to be sold. The architect's brother-in-law (Mr. Longden) supplied all the iron for twelve years, and although iron went down between 60 and 70 per cent. the schedule price was never revised, and a clause in the contract was that the iron was to be supplied by the Board, who did it through this official. An official of the Board, the architect's clerk (Mr. M'Farlane), who was still in their employment, when a stir was made about the matter, on a Bank Holiday devoted his time, unknown to the Board, in examining and destroying documents, and yet, though the chairman both in committee and at the Board moved for his dismissal, he was still kept on. The sites were not only the most extravagant that could be found, but it would be found, on looking at the deeds, that directly it was mooted that a site was likely to be wanted, it changed hands a number of times, and reached the Board at a great increase of price. Take, for instance, the Raywood-street site, opposite the Dogs' Home at Battersea, which eventually was purchased for £7,000, when at first it could easily have been purchased for £2,000; and the Ponton-street site, Nine Elms, for which £14,000 was given and a school erected where it was not wanted and never half filled. Sites were also purchased where all the gravel had been dug out, and they were simply dust-heaps; but, what was worse still, there were sites which after being bought at ridiculous prices prices were proved to be used, and had to be either sold again, or attempts were made to sell, as the St. George's-road, Pimlico, site, which cost £11,000, and for which the best offer that could be obtained was £5,000, a price which could not now be obtained. This inquiry was wanted in order to find out who had the money in numberless cases, and this information could not be obtained except by an independent committee such as he asked for, and which he believed the public demanded.

On the question of buildings he showed that up to March, 1891, the amount spent was £4,778,748, exclusive of land and fittings. Thirteen builders received contracts for £2,153,345 6s. 6d. The Board has 410 schools, of which 356 were erected by the Board, and 163 had been found faulty and insanitary, and not a single school in accordance with specifications. In a report dealing with the question of how the schools had been built, it was stated that—

"With some exceptions they have been badly planned and badly built; many of them are only huge barns, with an ornamental exterior, defectively ventilated and defectively lighted. The materials used in the schools complained of are the veriest rubbish, whilst the best have been specified in the contracts and paid for; the work scamped and executed in a disgraceful manner. Instead of the schools resting upon solid foundations, investigations have shown that they rest upon loose and soapy foundations, foundry-ashes foundations, mud foundations, and in some cases no foundations at all. . . . The mortar used was rotten—absolutely rotten—containing no binding or adhesive properties and no grit, and on being touched crushes to powder; also an entire absence of hair in the mortar, although it was specified in the contract and has been paid for. Half-burnt clay has been used in the place of sand; instead of the best quality of Portland stone free from all defects, the commonest has been used, full of sand-hole fractures and the edges broken; evidently taken from the outside beds of the quarry instead of from the inside. In the matter of the lath and plastering, single laths instead of a lath and a half have been used. The plastering being rotten, the result is that large patches are constantly falling. The painters' work has been scamped shamefully; the doors and frames improperly fixed; the glass 21oz. only, instead of 26oz., as specified and paid for; the woodwork and the floors executed in a most dishonest manner, laid with absolutely no concrete on them, covered only with wet clay and muck, with the result that dry rot has set in."

The worst part of the whole question was the insanitary condition of the buildings, because it carried illness and death both to teachers and children. Floors were improperly laid, pipes not even joined, and laid down in wrong ways, so that children in many cases were living over an open sewer. In the case of the Hamond-square School, Hoxton, after the caretaker's five children had died the parish sanitary inspector had found that the building had been erected over a series of running cesspools, which were immediately under the floor of the rooms. At the Globe-terrace School, Bethnal-green, in consequence of the absence of seventy children through illness, an investigation was made, and from under the floor of the infants' room two cartloads of decomposed vegetable and other refuse were removed. At the Stockwell-road School Divisional offices, after repeated cases of illness among the staff, it was found that the drains and the sewer were being freely ventilated into the space under the boarded floor. At Curtain-road, Hoxton, the sanitary inspector for Shoreditch found, amongst other defects, that immediately under a window in the girls' department were the closets of the infants' department. At the Everington-street School 300 children were absent through illness, and it was found that the latrines were not trapped. He thought that these instances were enough, but he had the whole list of the cases. He thought that it was an appalling fact that in every single one of these cases the Board had only interfered when they were obliged to do so by the sanitary authorities of the parish.

Mr. Walter Besant continues in *Harper's Magazine* the series of articles on London to which we have on several occasions called attention. This month he deals with London in the time of George II.:—

"London in 1750 was spreading, but not yet rapidly.

East and west, not north and south. Eastwards the city had thrown out a long arm by the river-side. St. Katherine's Precinct was crowded; streets, two or three deep, stretched along the river-bank as far as Limehouse, but no farther. These were inhabited by the people who made their living on the river. Immediately north of these streets stretched a great expanse of market gardens and fields. Whitechapel was a crowded suburb, filled with working-men. This was one of the places where the London mob was born and bred. Clerkenwell, with the parts about Smithfield, was another district dear to thieves, pickpockets, and rowdies. Within its boundaries the city was well and carefully ordered. Unfortunately this order did not extend beyond the walls. Outside there were no companies, no small parishes, no rich merchants, no charities, schools, or endowments, and practically there were no churches. On the north side, Moorfields still remained an open space; beyond lay Hoxton-fields, White Conduit-fields, Lamb's Conduit-fields, and Marylebone-fields. The suburb of Bloomsbury was beginning. A crowded suburb had sprung up north of the Strand. Westminster was a great city by itself. Southwark, now a borough with 500,000 people, as great as Liverpool, occupied then a little strip of marshy land not half a mile broad at its widest. East and west, to Lambeth on the one side and to Redriff on the other, was a narrow strip of river-side, dotted with houses and hamlets. The walls of the city were never formally pulled down. They disappeared bit by bit. Houses were built close to them and upon them; they were covered up. Excavators constantly bring to light some of the foundations. When a churchyard was placed against the wall, as at St. Giles's, Cripplegate, and St. Alphege, London Wall, some portions of the old wall remain. The course of the wall is, in fact, perfectly well known, and has often been mapped. It is strange, however, that the Corporation should have been so careless as to make no attempt at all to preserve more of this most interesting monument. The gates stood, and were closed at sunset, until the year 1760. They they were all pulled down, and the materials sold. Temple Bar, which was never a city gate, properly speaking, remained until the other day. The gates were, I suppose, an obstruction to traffic. Yet one regrets their disappearance. They were not old, but they had a character of their own, and they preserved the memory of ancient sites. I wish they could have been preserved to this day. A statue of Queen Elizabeth, which formerly stood on the west front of Lud Gate, is, I believe, the only part of a city gate not destroyed. It is now placed on the south wall of St. Dunstan's, Fleet-street, where thousands pass daily, regardless of this relic of London before the fire.

"If you were to ask any person specially interested in the Church of England—not necessarily a clergyman of that Church—which was the deadest and lowest and feeblest period of the Church's existence, he would without the least hesitation reply that the reign of George II. covered that period. This is universally accepted. I think, however, that one may show, without much trouble, that this belief is not based upon inquiry into the facts of the time. It is certain that the churches were what is commonly called 'ugly,' that is to say, they were built by Wren, or were imitations of his style, and had nothing to do with Early English, or Decorated, or even Perpendicular. Also, it is certain that the congregations sat in pews, each family by itself; that there were some few pews of greater dignity than others, where sat my Lord Mayor, or the aldermen, or the sheriffs, or the masters of city companies. It is also certain that all the churches had galleries, that the services were performed from a 'three-decker,' that the sermon was preached in a black gown, and that the clergyman called himself a minister, and not a priest. All these things are abominations to the latter half of the nineteenth century. There were also pluralists; the poor were left very much to themselves, and the parish was not worked according to modern ideas. But was it quite a dead time? Let us see. There were 109 parish churches in London and Westminster. At forty-four of these there was daily service—surely a recognised indication of religious activity. At one of these there were three daily services; at all of them—the whole 109—there were services every Wednesday and Friday, and on all holy days and saints' days. There were endowments for occasional sermons in nearly every church. So much of the Puritan spirit remained that the sermon was still considered the most important part of church service; in other words, sound doctrine being held to be essential to salvation, instruction in doctrine was considered of far greater importance than prayer or praise—a fact which quite sufficiently accounts for the slovenly character of church services down to thirty or forty years ago. The singing was deplorable, but the sermons were sound. Let us walk abroad and view the streets. They are changed indeed since Stow led us from St. Andrew Undershaft to St. Paul's. The old gabled houses are all gone, except in the narrow limits of the part spared by the fire; in their places are tall houses with large sash windows and flat facade. Within they are wainscoted, the fashion of tapestry having completely gone out. Foot-passengers are protected by rows of posts at intervals of four or five feet. Flat paving-stones are not in general use, and those that have been laid down are small and insecure. The shops are small, and there is little pretence at displaying the goods; they have now, however, all got windows in front. A single candle or two at the most, illuminate the wares in the evening or the short afternoons of winter. A sign hangs out over every door. The drawing of St. Dunstan's in the West shows that part of Fleet-street before the paving-stones were laid down. The only pavement, both for the road and the footway, consisted of large round pebbles, over which the rolling of the vehicles made the most dreadful noise. In the year 1762, however, an improvement was introduced in Westminster, followed by the city of London in 1766. The roads were paved with squares of Scotch granite laid in gravel; the posts were removed; a kerb was laid down, gutters provided, and the footway paved with flat stones. About the same time the Corporation took down the overhanging signs, removed the city gates, covered over Fleet Ditch, and broadened numerous narrow passages. The drawing here given of the Monument and the beginning of London-bridge dates between 1757 and 1766; for the houses are already down on the bridge—this was done in 1757—and the posts and signs are not yet removed from the street. The view gives a good idea of a London street of that time. The post were by no means all removed. The drawing of Temple Bar from Butcher Row, taken as late as 1796, in which they are still standing, shows this. It also shows the kind of houses in the lower streets. Butcher Row, though it stood in the Strand at the back of St. Clement's Church, a highly respectable quarter, was one of the most disreputable places in the whole of London—given over to crimps, flash lodging-houses, and people of the baser sort.

"The most expensive parts of the town were the streets round St. Paul's church-yard, Cheapside, the Royal Exchange, Charing Cross; Covent Garden and St. James's lie outside our limits. Here the rent of a moderate house was from a 100 to 150gs. a year. In less central places the rents were not more than half as much. There were six or seven fire-insurance offices. The premium for insurance on houses and goods not called hazardous was generally 2s. per cent. on any sum under £1,000, 2s. 6d. on all sums between £1,000 and £2,000, and 3s. 6d. on all sums over £3,000, so that a man insuring his house and furniture for £2,500 would pay an annual premium of £4 7s. 6d. The common practice of bakers and milkmen was to keep a tally on the doorpost with chalk. The advantage of this method was that a mark might be added when the maid was not looking. The price of meat was about a third of the present prices, beef being 4d. a lb., mutton 4½d., and veal 6d. Chickens were commonly sold at 2s. 6d. the pair; eggs were sometimes three and sometimes eight for 4d., according to the time of year. Coals seem to have cost about 40s. a ton, but this is uncertain. Candles were 8s. 4d. a dozen for 'dips,' and 9s. 4d. a dozen for 'moulds'; wax candles were 2s. 10d. a pound. For out-door lamps train-oil was used, and for indoors sperm oil. For the daily dressing of the hair, hair-dressers were engaged at 7s. to £1 1s. a month. Servants were hired at register offices, but they were often of very bad character, with forged papers. The wages given were, to women cooks, £12 a year; ladies'-maids, £12 to £20; housemaids, from £7 to £9; footmen, £14 and a livery. Servants found their own tea and sugar. Board wages were 10s. 6d. a-week to an upper servant; 7s. to an under servant. Every householder was liable to serve as churchwarden, overseer for the poor, constable—but he could serve by deputy—and juryman. Peers, clergymen, lawyers, Members of Parliament, physicians, and surgeons were exempted.

"The stamps which had to be bought with anything were a grievous burden. A pair of gloves worth 10d.—stamp of 1d.; worth 1s. 4d.—stamp of 2d.; above 1s. 4d.—stamp of 4d. Penalty for selling without a stamp, £5. Hats were taxed in like manner. Inventories and catalogues were stamped; an apprentice's indentures were stamped; notes and bills of exchange were stamped; every newspaper paid a stamp of three halfpence. In the year 1753 there were seven millions and a-half of stamps issued to the journals. We have seen what it cost a respectable householder to pay his way in the time of Charles II. The following shows the cost of living a hundred years later. The house is supposed to consist of husband and wife, four children, and two maids. Food, coals, candles, small-beer (of which 12 gallons are allowed, that is, 41 quarts, or an average of 1 quart a-day per head), soap, starch, and all kinds of odds and ends are reckoned at £3 12s. 5d. a-week, or £188 5s. 8d. a-year; clothes, including hair-dressing, £64; pocket expenses, £15 12s.; occasional illness, £11; schooling, £8; wages, £14 10s.; rent and taxes, £66; entertainments, wine, &c., £30 19s.—making a total of £400 a year. If we take the same family with the same scale of living at the present day, we shall arrive at the difference in the cost of things:—

	1890.	1760.
Food, coals, and ale, &c.	£420	£190
Clothes	120	64
Pocket expenses	45	15
School	143	8
Illness	42	11
Wages of two maids	42	14
Rent and taxes (not counting Income-tax)	150	66
Travelling	150	nil
Books	90	nil
Wine	84	31
On furniture and the house	103	nil

A comparison of the figures shows a very considerable raising of the standard as regards comfort, and even necessaries. It is true that the modern figures have been taken from the accounts of a family which spends every year from £1,200 to £1,600. In the evening every man had his club or coffee-house. We know that Dr. Johnson was unhappy unless he had a club for the evening. There were clubs for every class. They met at taverns. They gradually superseded the coffee-houses for evening purposes. The city coffee-houses, however, became places where a good deal of business was carried on. Thus at the Baltic was a subscription-room for merchants and brokers engaged in the Russia trade; the Chapter of Paternoster-row was the resort of booksellers; the Jamaica was a house for West Indian trade; Garraway's, Robins's, Jonathan's, the Jerusalem, Lloyds', were all city coffee-houses turned into rendezvouses for merchants. The clubs of the last century deserve a separate paper for themselves. The London citizen went to his club every evening. He there solemnly discussed the news of the day, smoked his pipe of tobacco, drank his glass of punch, and went home by ten o'clock. The club was the social life of the city. For the ladies there was their own social life. Women lived much more with other women; they had their visits and society among themselves in the daytime. While the men worked at their shops and offices, the women gadded about; in the evening they sat at home while the men went out. In one family of my acquaintance there is a tradition belonging to the end of the last century that when the then head of the house came home at ten, the girls hurried off to bed, the reason being that the good man's temper at the late hour, what with the fatigues of the day and the punch of the evening, was anything but uncertain. A manuscript diary of a middle-class family belonging to the time of George I. shows anything but a stay-at-home life. The ladies were always going about. But they stayed at home in the evenings. There was a very good reason why the women should stay at home. The streets were infested with prowling thieves and with dangerous bullies; no woman could go out after dark in the city without an armed escort of her father's ap-

prentices or his men-servants. The occupations of a young lady—not a lady of the highest fashion—of this time are given by a contemporary writer. He says that she makes tippets, works handkerchiefs in catgut, collects shells, makes grottoes, copies music, paints, cuts out figures and landscapes, and makes screens. She dances a minuet or cotillon, and she can play ombre, lansquenet, quadrille, and Pope Joan. These are frivolous accomplishments, but the writer says nothing of the morning's work—the distilling of creams, the confecting of cakes and puddings and sauces, the needlework, and all the useful things.

At Manchester this week Mr. G. Du Maurier, of *Punch*, gave a highly interesting address on "Social Pictorial Satire, as exemplified in *Punch* during the last fifty years." Mr. Du Maurier kept his audience charmed for over an hour. He described particularly the work of John Leech and Charles Keene, referring incidentally only to that of Richard Doyle, by whom the title-page of the journal was drawn. Of Leech he said that if an artist's greatness were to be measured by the pleasure he gave there was no pinnacle too high for John Leech. There might be better draughtsmen than he, and more accomplished pens than that which he so long wielded, but none with such power to make men glad. In his own early artistic life Leech occupied almost the whole firmament, but when he joined the staff of *Punch*, Leech was no longer its bright particular star. Sir John Millais and Sir Frederic Leighton were illustrating books, and the world was becoming acquainted with the draughtsmanship of Frederick Walker, F. K. Sandes, and Charles Keene. He was not so intimate with Leech as with Keene, though the former was invariably kind and courteous, and possessed an ineffable charm of manner. With Keene he had lived in the wholesome, industrious, joyous Bohemia in which Keene delighted. Their world was not Leech's world. They hated aristocracy as Leech hated foreigners, from much the same reason—ignorance. It was an honour to know such a man as Leech, a man who had made the whole nation laugh for a quarter of a century as it had never laughed before or since. Leech was, perhaps, the greater genius, but Keene the more consummate artist, and the latter was as much admired in France and Germany as in his own country. To borrow an illustration from music, it might be said that while Leech could strike upon simple, artless, but beautiful melodies which went at once to everybody's heart, Keene was a veritable Sebastian Bach, with a perfect knowledge of all the mysteries of counterpoint. It was amazing to see the effects which Keene could produce with a very few strokes of the pen or pencil. Leech might have produced greater effects, but it would have been at a far greater expenditure of labour. Speaking towards the close of his address of his own work, Mr. Du Maurier said his infirmities of sight, which made open-air work almost impossible to him, as well as other circumstances, determined the line which he was to take.

A report has been issued by the Department of Science and Art, in which Mr. Alan S. Cole writes of lace-making as it is carried on in Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, and Buckinghamshire. Mr. Cole describes various laces made in the three counties. One, the "point net" Bucks lace was a sort of adaptation from the Lille, Arras, and Mechlin laces, with small mesh ground, of the eighteenth century. A second was a sort of Maltese lace, with details which recalled those in the "merletti a piombini" of the sixteenth century. A third was torchon for narrow edgings and insertions. In none of these was there much exercise of ornamental design. The motive of the ornament consisted almost entirely of repetitions of a single device, notwithstanding that the pricked parchment or card, called a "down," was at least 12in. long, thereby offering sufficient length for a much more varied design. Through using this repetition of small device (a style of pattern which was much in vogue towards the end of the eighteenth century, and was particularly affected by the machine manufacturers of laces for dresses at the present time), the ornamental character of the Northamptonshire, Bucks, and Beds hand-made pillow lace came into direct competition with that of the machine-made laces. And a result was that the average earning of the pillow lack-maker was very low, lower even than that of many French and Flemish pillow lace-makers, who, as a class, produced some artistic lace. Small attempts to vary the prevalent style of the laces of the three counties had been made at Spratton, in the direction of braid or tape lace patterns. But the restrictions in rendering ornament, which arose when actual braid or tape was employed, need not be insisted upon when a freer method of working the pattern—the pillow and bobbin method—was in question. The imitation of the braid and tape lace patterns in pillow laces could not, therefore, lead to much, if any, good influence for raising the artistic standard of the county laces. There seemed to be no reason, however, why a class of guipure lace, based, perhaps, upon the fine flowing scroll patterns of Flemish seventeenth century laces, and other varieties of similar design, should not be produced, especially when superior work was asked for. This need not interfere with the making of the small torchons or other laces for which there was a fair demand by the trade.

At present there was no system for looking after higher artistic patterns in respect of good drawing, composition, &c. No use, he thought, had been made of such facilities as might probably be obtained through the Northampton and Bedford Schools of Art. There were amongst the lace-workers many who could prick off the patterns. As a rule the pricking was done from bits of lace procured from different sources. For instance, he found reproductions of ordinary Russian and Auvergne laces, the originals of which were well known to dealers and were attainable in almost any quantity when demanded. At the same time dealers in lace supplied a few "downs" in which the simplest patterns had been pricked. At Spratton there were probably some twenty or twenty-five lace-workers, most of them old women, who had been out in domestic service, and having returned to live in the village, added to the home purse by working at their pillows. This was a point worth notice in connection with the idea that training girls to make lace interfered with their becoming domestic servants. There were no children at Spatton learning lace-making.

Mr. Cole also gives details of the lace-making industry in the villages of Paulerspury, where there were 130 lacemakers; Wicken, where forty pillows were at work; Padbury; Ridgmont, where patterns tracing their origin to a colony of French refugees from the Revolution of 1798 were in use; and Lacey Green, near Princes Risborough, where there were twenty to thirty workers. Mr. Cole remarks that the number of lacemakers in each village might be increased if the industry were revived, and makes the interesting statement on the authority of the Ridgmont workers, that the prices paid by buyers have improved a little since the Northampton lace exhibition. He adds that the average earning at Edgmont, as elsewhere, was about 6d. a day.

In conclusion, Mr. Cole observed that there appeared to be various forms of opposition to furthering lace-making as a domestic industry. One was based on a notion that if woman's labour of that kind were developed the agricultural labourer's (i.e., the husband's or father's) wage would be lowered. This ingenious theory was not, he thought supported by evidence, past or existing, from lace-making districts at home or abroad, where the industry had been more widely cultivated and more extensively practised. Another idea, apparently unsupported by preponderance of evidence, was that if girls learned lace-making they would not go into domestic service. Another contention was that the industry made the women stoop. But here, again, any one who had visited foreign and English lace-making districts would not probably have noticed that the women in them stooped more than in other districts. At one lace-making village he went to it was the pride of the women to be erect, as there were no stoopers except the invalids and weakly ones, who stooped whether they were lace-makers or not. On the whole, it seemed that while it was possible to conjure up all sorts of objections to a domestic industry like lace-making, it was quite as easy to adduce facts and evidence in favour of it as a means of improving the circumstances of agricultural families, and of fostering a healthy independence in old age.

Mr. Norman Lockyer, writing on "New Stars" in the *Nineteenth Century*, observes that it is now an established doctrine that the solar system may have been a swarm of meteorites; that a strong likeness exists between the spectra of nebulæ and of a certain class of stars; and that even the Pleiades may probably be only the bright centres of a nebulous assemblage—a meeting-place of meteoric streams. All the evidence goes to prove that the spectra of new stars (such as that discovered the other day in Auriga) are closely related to those of nebulæ and comets. These new stars, or *Novæ*, exhibit changes in magnitude strictly in accordance with the meteoritic theory of their origin; their rapid fading away proving that small bodies, not large ones, are engaged. Mr. Lockyer finds here a confirmation of his original conclusion, stated in 1887, that new stars, whether seen in connection with nebulæ or not, are produced by the clash of meteor swarms. In this latest instance the two swarms are now separating at a velocity of 500 miles a second.

Mr. Theodore Bent gave at a meeting of the Geographical Society this week an account of his explorations of the ruins of the Great Zimbabwe. These ruins, so named to distinguish them from the numerous minor Zimbabwes scattered over the country, were situated in south latitude 20° 16′ 30″ and east longitude 31° 10′ 10″, at an elevation of 3,300ft. above the sea level, and formed the capital of a long series of such ruins stretching up the whole length of the west side of the Sabie river. They covered a vast area of ground, and consisted of the large circular building on a gentle rise with a network of inferior buildings extending into the valley below, and the labyrinthine fortress on the hill, about 400ft. above, naturally protected by huge granite boulders and a precipice running round a considerable portion of it. Mr. Bent gave a minute description of the ruins, drawing attention to evidence that their ancient inhabitants must have been given to the grosser forms of native worship. Perhaps the most interesting of their finds in one portion were those in connection with the manufacture of gold. Here stood a gold-smelting furnace, made of very hard cement, with a chimney of the same material, and very neatly bevelled edges. Hard by, in a chasm between two boulders, lay all the rejected quartz casings from which the gold-bearing quartz has been extracted by exposing them to heat prior to the crushing. Near the furnace, too, they found many little crucibles of a composition of clay, which had been used for smelting the gold, and in nearly all of them existed small specks of gold adhering to the glaze formed by the heat of the process. There were tools also for extracting gold, burnishers, crushers, &c., and an ingot mould of soapstone of a curious form, which was still in use amongst the natives much further north for ingots of iron.

Mr. Bent held that the ruins and the things in them were not in any way connected with any known African race; the objects of art and the special cult were foreign to the country altogether, where the only recognised form of religion was, and had been since the days when the early Portuguese explorers penetrated into it and El Masoudi wrote, that of ancestor worship. It was also obvious that the ruins formed a garrison for the protection of a gold-producing race in remote antiquity. So we must look around for such a race outside the limits of Africa, and it was in Arabia that we found the object of our search. Arabia and her early commercial enterprises formed a subject but inaccurately known now. That the Red Sea was bristling with activity centuries before our epoch was an accepted fact, and all ancient authorities speak of Arabian gold in terms of extravagant praise. Spices, precious stones, and gold were brought to Rome not from Arabia, but by the Arabians, as carriers of such things from the outer seas. Little, if any, gold came from Arabia itself; and here in Africa, infinitely nearer to them than their accustomed voyages to China, gold was produced in large quantities, both from alluvial and from quartz, from the remotest ages. A cult practised in Arabia in early times was also practised here; hence there was little room for doubt that the builders and workers of the great Zimbabwe came from the Arabian peninsula. When the Portuguese reached Sofala at the close of the 15th century the Arabs were still in possession of the

coast, and, though banished from the interior, obtained gold by trading with the natives. Persian and Chinese pottery had frequently been found on the coast, and also Chinese and other coins. The innumerable shafts sunk in the Mazoe, Hartley Hills, Umswezwe, and Manica districts, the acres of alluvial turned over, pointed to vast enterprise incompatible with the character of the African native. He had no hesitation in assigning this enterprise to Arabian origin, and to a pre-Mahomedan period, and in thinking that the ruins of Great Zimbabwe were closely connected with the *thesauris Arabum et divitis India* of antiquity.

Mr. Inverarity, a member of the Bombay Bar and one of the most distinguished of Indian *shikaris*, lately contributed to the Bombay Natural History Society a paper on the mammalia of Somali Land, where he went on a shooting expedition last year. Referring to lion shooting, he says it is a very fascinating pursuit if conducted in the proper manner, which is to track the animal to where he is lying. At the end of the track, which may last for several hours, the eyes suddenly fall on a lion sitting in the dense gloom of a bush a few feet off, or sometimes it leads into a thicket of thorns that cannot be penetrated, when the best plan is to set fire to it and stand at the other end. Mr. Inverarity says he only once found one sitting in the open—a lioness with a well-grown cub. They were sitting on the open sand under a small thorn fire. So well does their colour harmonize with their surroundings that he tracked to within four yards of them without seeing them, and would not have seen them then if they had not got up. On another occasion his men pointed to a lioness he was tracking crouching in the grass a few yards off, but although he looked he could not see her till she moved her ears. Like every other animal, the lion tries to avoid man until wounded, and it is only in exceptional cases of there being young ones to guard, or from astonishment at seeing the hunter so close to them, that they charge when being tracked. Mr. Inverarity was never charged by an unwounded one. They charge with the same coughing roar that a tiger does, and come at great speed close to the ground, not bounding in the air as they are represented in pictures; their ears are pressed close to the head, giving them the comical appearance of being without ears. "So large an animal coming at full speed against you of course knocks you off your legs. The claws and teeth entering the flesh do not hurt so much as you would think. The only really painful part of the business is the squeeze given by the jaws on the bone. I felt none of the dreamy stupor Livingstone describes, but, on the contrary, felt as usual. I adopted the course of lying quite still, which, I believe, is the best thing one can do, as you are quite helpless with a heavy animal on you, and they are inclined to make grabs at everything that moves, and the fewer bites you can get off with the better. All the wounds are centres of inflammation and blood-poisoning, and the more you get the less chance you have. The power of the lion's jaw may be inferred from the fact that the lioness that seized me, although it had a broken jaw, scored deep grooves in the barrels of my rifle with her teeth. Some claw wounds were mere scratches, which I attribute to the fact that they clutch at the surface of your coat thinking it is all solid underneath, and so reach the flesh pretty late. In fact, my coat was torn in some places without any corresponding wound beneath. I never felt the slightest shock. Tigers and panthers as a rule immediately leave any one they seize in a charge, but this lioness, having left me, went a few yards to roar at my men, returned and stood over me growling, and then bit my arm; I got no bite the first go off, as she was occupied in biting the rifle."

Fully 50 per cent. of the books lent out at the Paris public libraries are novels. Alexandre Dumas the Elder heads the list, together with Eugène Sue. Balzac, on the other hand, is rather out of fashion, as is also Georges Sand. Among contemporary authors, M. Zola is most in request, but he is run very hard by M. Jules Verne.

In a Bohemian village last week a couple were married on the same day that the bridegroom's parents celebrated their silver wedding and his grandparents their golden wedding.

Correspondence.

PARISH SCHOOLS AND POLITICAL MEETINGS.

Sir,—"Quem Deus vult perdere," &c. The Government are certainly going the pace. The Rake's Progress is nothing to it. It seems that the Opposition have only to put some pernicious fad before them, and the principle at least is at once conceded. I conclude that the clerical vote will be of *some* importance to them at the approaching General Election. But the clerical mind has been deeply stirred of late. It was stirred by the passing of the Free Education Act, and now it will be more stirred than ever if, as seems likely, we are to have imported into our schools the political meetings of tag, rag, and bobtail. With whatever face the Government may see fit to force this political "abomination of desolation" upon schools to which a grant has been given towards the building itself, there are others—for aught I know many—from which, in as much as no such grant has been either conferred or even asked for, the commonest understanding of the word justice ought to induce them to withhold their hands. Of such a kind is the school in this parish. When some few years ago it was rebuilt by *Churchmen* at a cost of over £700, fearing the Radical devices of the future, I *purposely* abstained from asking a farthing of the Education Department. The mere fact of the receipt of an annual grant towards the education of the children, I consider to be beside the mark altogether. The school, which was founded and endowed by a Churchman in 1812, which has been rebuilt by Churchmen, and is now supported by Churchmen *only*, has all along afforded an excellent education, and when, after the passing of the Education Act, a higher standard was enforced, the Department very properly paid, or helped to pay, for their own requirements. The annual grant, therefore, in no way affects the building. To force the trustees against their will to open the doors of schools of this kind to all manner of meetings would be a distinct invasion of the rights of property. Whether rightly or wrongly, I have striven for years, with the cordial agreement of my lay co-trustees, and therefore with success, to keep politics out of the school. Now, more than ever, do I regard them with aversion when they have become so debased that, for the sake of gaining votes, falsehood is boldly put forward as truth, and promises, impossible of fulfilment, are recklessly made. What have we Churchmen done, or what are we doing, that our lawful possessions are to be invaded in this? Why are our feelings to be outraged by the prospect of possible discussions upon Disestablishment, and the making of remarks derogatory to the Church and her Ministers in the very buildings which we have reared with our own hands? I am inclined to think that we shall be better off with the Radicals in power, for in that case the House of Lords would be affected by no squeamishness in placing a constitutional veto upon noxious fads.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
AUGUSTUS G. LEGGE.

North Elmham Vicarage, Norfolk,
Feb. 29.

Sir,—Without one word of warning, or one inquiry of those so nearly concerned in the matter, the use of our national schools for public meetings is ceded at Mr. Gardner's demand. Who is Mr. Gardner that he should have such weight with our Government as to outweigh all the clergy and the Church party, or certainly the large majority of them? I could not believe my eyes when I saw it so calmly announced in the daily paper as though of no consequence at all; it is a matter of the deepest concern to those especially living in the country, and will constantly be rousing the bitterest annoyance, for we all know who will demand the use of the schoolrooms—those who will constantly traduce and abuse the Church and Conservative party, and, above all, the "parson." What it has been done for I cannot think. I have heard of no special grievance being made of the matter. I am certain it will cause the deepest indignation, and expect and hope it will be remembered when the day of reckoning comes at the General Election. The Conservative party must be extinct if it does not refuse to help to again place in power a Ministry who have betrayed it from first to last. What worse treatment could they have received from Mr. Gladstone than they have from Lord Salisbury? And this is the last drop that will make the cup run over; the rural schools were built and are maintained almost exclusively by Churchmen, the clergy always doing more than their share; not a penny do the Dissenters give towards the expenses, and they are to have the free use of them. I could not even see that the proposed "restrictions" and repairing damages were ultimately to be enforced. I must say it is, in some measure, the clergy's own fault; from indolence or cowardly fearing to make themselves unpopular they refrain from taking the smallest part in politics, sheltering themselves under the convenient plea that religion has nothing to do with politics, an excuse which deceives neither themselves nor anybody else, and they reap the full benefit of their apathy by being always overlooked by Ministers, and every sect's grievances being considered at their expense, and, *unfortunately*, the Church suffers with them. They certainly would have influence if they roused themseves to use it, and if they made their power *felt* as the Dissenting Ministers do, they would be attended to also. Another evil thing is that the Conservative Press is completely gone over to the enemy, and never does battle for its own side, with the one great exception of *yourself!* Feeling sure of your sympathetic indignation I venture to write this.

I am, yours obediently,
February 29. T. J.

Sir,—It must have been with indignation, as well as with regret, that the Managers of Voluntary schools read the speeches in the House of Commons on this question. We have become accustomed to a little confusion of might and right of late years, but surely in this matter it is difficult to discern even the fairtest tint of right.

What the Resolution amounted to, and what our Conservative Government have conceded, is simply this, that the schoolrooms which we have built and paid for have become public property, because the Government now assists us with a grant. It may be of little use to point out that this grant only assists the yearly expenditure for teaching, and did not contribute one farthing to the building of our schools; but the question is now forced upon us, Are we to give up our schoolrooms to the Government, or can we retain them still as private property? For it only wants another tap with this same "Parliamentary grant" hammer, and the wedge will be driven home, and our schools will be separated from us altogether. If the Government can claim them for a part of the day, on this plea of "Parliamentary grant," they can just as easily claim them for the whole of the day—in other words, take possession of them altogether.

I, as a school manager, am certainly not prepared to give them up by "right." If they are to be taken from us, I suppose we cannot help ourselves; but I hope you will give other managers an opportunity of expressing their opinions on this matter.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A SCHOOL MANAGER.

Weston, near Bath, Frebuary 27.

Sir,—The resolution concerning village schoolrooms is, in plain words, nothing more nor less than tyrannical interference. The Government get the use of private schools, teachers, &c., for four hours out of the working day, at a ridiculously small rent, called grant; the managers get the use of their own schools for barely one hour of the working day, and are strictly prohibited from taking even five minute from the stipulated four hours; and yet the managers of these schools pay, in some cases, more than half, in others a good third, of the expenses, besides having built the schools, which are private property. Further, they save the ratepayers, in whose name this lively resolution is passed, enormous sums.

Apart from all party feeling, it is a gross act of injustice, and the fact that Government contribute to the support of the schools, and obtain for that support more than their just due, cannot make private schools national property. Such an idea is simply subversive of all reason and right. If the Voluntary schools are national property, then surely Sir W. Harcourt's and Mr. John Morley's drawing-rooms are, and there is no reason why the ratepayers should not assemble in them for a meeting, political or other, whenever it pleases them, provided they think them the most convenient and comfortable in the parish.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Feb. 27. A MANAGER.

CLERGY DISCIPLINE BILL.

Sir,—The new Clergy Discipline Bill is now before us, and we can compare it with that of last year. The comparison is interesting. The first thing that strikes one is the brevity of the

new Bill. Last year there were thirty-one clauses; this year there are ten. The suggestion made by the Leader of the Commons last July has been adopted. The elaborate procedure proposed to be established disappears from the Bill. Other contentious matter is gone. The "*ipso facto*" vacation of preferment is gone. The provision for deposition from holy orders, and the attempt to bring under the Bill clergymen unattached who live abroad, are not persevered with. Most of the details to which opposition was directed are thus disposed of. True, the Bill is there, and the principle on which it rests—the principle that the spiritual courts derive their authority from the temporal power. But this is no new theory. The temporal power has already laid its hand on the spiritual courts in the Church Discipline Act of 1840, has paralysed their action, has imposed on them a procedure, described by the Archbishop a year ago as "very slow and tedious, very costly, and often very unsatisfactory." This heavy burden laid on the spiritual courts by Act of Parliament can obviously be removed by the action of Parliament alone. At first sight the new Bill looks like a simple attempt to remove a part of that burden; it removes restrictions and enables the spiritual courts to work more freely and efficiently. At least it might with some ingenuity be thus represented.

But as usual, *dolus latet in generalibus*. What if the elaborate details, rejected since last year, are brought back by the broad sweep of one comprehensive clause? I invite attention to the *sixth clause* of the new Bill. This clause establishes a "Rule Committee," consisting of "the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of England, the Judge of each provincial court, and the Archbishops and Bishops who are members of the Privy Council, or any two of the said persons, one of them being the Lord Chancellor or Lord Chief Justice." There was an identical committee in last year's Bill, but the business committed to it was purely formal. In the new Bill the commission is an extraordinarily wide one. These two persons are to have power to regulate, among other things—

"The appointment as a Deputy-Chancellor of a barrister of not less than seven years' standing, . . . the place of sitting of the Court, the passing of sentences, the enforcing of sentences and inhibitions whether by civil or ecclesiastical officers, . . . the application of this Act to a clergyman who cannot be found or who holds no preferment."

A rule thus made is to be laid before both Houses of Parliament, and if no resolution is carried to the contrary it is to "be of the same validity as if enacted in this Act."

A glance at last year's Bill shows that this clause is intended to bring in, by a more expeditious process than that of passing through Parliament, all those elaborate details of which the Bill itself has been lightened. But it does more than this. Consider the breath of the commission here given. It will be seen that the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice are authorised to remodel throughout the courts that are supposed to be spiritual. They can remove any Bishop's Chancellor from his seat in favour of a seven-year barrister; they can bring the Bishop's court out of his diocese, and where they will; they can authorise whom they please to pass a spiritual sentence; they can order any "ecclesiastical officer" to execute such sentence; they can place the unlicensed cleric under what jurisdiction they please, regardless of such trifles as diocese or province. All this by authority of Parliament, and subject to the tacit consent of Parliament, is to be done by two high officials who have not the remotest connection with spiritual rule. If this be enacted, how shall any one dare to pretend that the Church is anything else than a department of State, or that spiritual power is anything but an emanation from the temporal? There will be only one way—the old way of utterly denying the validity of these enactments, and of fighting obstinately against their results.

Feb. 27. T. A. LACEY.

There seems to be little doubt that tea was introduced into Europe by the Dutch, although Portuguese intercourse with China began in 1518. The first direct shipment from China, about 100lb. in weight, reached London in 1669.

Memorial Windows.—Messrs. Mayer and Co., of Munich, and 149, New Bond-street, London, solicit a visit to their showrooms, where they have always on view stained-glass windows and other objects of ecclesiastical art, executed for almost any part of the kingdom. Messrs. Mayer and Co., will have great pleasure in submitting designs and estimates for any window in contemplation free of all charge.

SOCIETY.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Geoffrey, younger son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel St. Quintin, 17th Lancers, of Scampston Hall, Yorkshire, and Muriel, daughter of the late Hon. George Ogilvie Grant, of Grant, captain Black Watch, and granddaughter of Francis William, sixth Earl of Seafield.

A marriage has been arranged between Mr. de Falbe, of the Worcestershire Regiment, eldest son of the late Captain Vigant de Falbe, Royal Danish Navy, and Elinor, youngest daughter of Mr. John B. Watt, of Sydney, New South Wales.

Also between Mr. E. P. Burke, the King's Own Regiment, son of Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms, and Christina Mary, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Mathew P. D'Arcy, J.P. and D.L., of Kilcroney, co. Wicklow.

The marriage of Major Post, Military Attaché to the United States Legation, with Miss Pultz, daughter of Mr. John T. Pultz, of New York, is expected to take place in London towards the end of April.

The marriage arranged between the Hon. Robert N. Hardinge and Miss Lynch-Blosse, daughter of Sir Robert and Lady Harriet Lynch-Blosse, will take place on Tuesday next.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Randolph Cholmeley and Miss Clara Louise Homfray will take place at West Retford shortly after Easter.

The marriage between Mr. S. H. Cowper-Coles and Miss Edith Bailey has been arranged to take place on Wednesday, the 20th of April, at Llangattock Church.

The marriage arranged between Captain G. F. King Hall, R.N., eldest son of the late Admiral Sir William King Hall, K.C.B., and Olga, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Richard Ker, will take place in April.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Douglas Pennant, King's Royal Rifles, and Miss Maud Hardy will take place immediately after Easter.

The marriage between Mr. Harold Arthur Perry, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, son of Mr. Walter Copland Perry, of 5, Manchester-square, and Miss Louisa Vaughan, daughter of the Rev. Charles Lyndhurst Vaughan, of St. Leonards-on-Sea, will take place at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, on Monday, the 14th inst., at half-past two.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Percy Laming and Miss Chetwode will take place on Saturday, the 19th inst., at St. Mary's, Mucklestone, Staffordshire.

Captain the Hon. Assheton Gore Curzon-Howe, C.B., R.N., youngest son of the late Earl Howe, and brother of the Duchess of Abercorn, was, on the 26th ult., married to Miss Alice Cowell, daughter of Major-General Sir John Cowell, Master of the Queen's Household, in St. Mark's Church, North Audley-street. The Marquis of Hamilton attended the Captain as best man, and the bridesmaids were Miss Marie Cowell, sister of the bride; the Ladies Alexandra and Gladys Hamilton, nieces of the bridegroom; Miss M. M'Neill, and Miss Whyley. The bride, who was given away by her father, was dressed in white Bengaline draped with Brussels lace, caught with sprays of orange blossoms and myrtle, wore a fillet of orange blossoms in the hair, and a tulle veil fastened by a diamond star. Her jewels included a pearl necklace and diamond cross, the gifts of the bridegroom. The bridesmaids were also in white silk, their dresses being prettily trimmed with white fur and narrow silver braid. They wore white chip hats, with ostrich feathers and moonstone and diamond safety-pin brooches, given by the bridegroom, as were also their bouquets of pink tulips and lilies of the valley tied with pink ribbon. The service was choral, the Bishop of Ripon officiating, assisted by the Rev. Canon J. N. Dalton, Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen. Among those present at the ceremony and reception were the Prince of Leiningen, Prince Louis of Battenberg, the Duke and Duchess of Abercorn, the Duchess of Beaufort, the Duke of Grafton, Earl and Countess Howe and the Ladies Curzon, Viscount and Viscountess Curzon, Lady George Hamilton, Lady Tweedmouth, the Right Hon. Edward and Lady Fanny Marjoribanks, Admiral Hon. Sir Edmund and Lady Fremantle, Admiral Sir Edmund and Lady Commerell and Miss Commerell, Hon. Mrs. Montagu Curzon, and the Hon. W. Curzon. Her Majesty presented the bride with a turquoise and diamond bangle; Princess Louise's gift was a diamond and moonstone spray; Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg gave a diamond and sapphire brooch, and the Grand Duke of Hesse a silver-gilt box. The Duke of Edinburgh presented the bridegroom with a silver bowl; the late officers of Her Majesty's ship *Boadicea* (of which he was formerly captain) also made him a present of a silver bowl; and those of Her Majesty's ship *Conquest* gave him silver candlesticks.

The marriage of Captain Randolph Edward Whitehead, Royal Munster Fusiliers, son of the Rev. T. Whitehead, of Shustoke, Warwickshire, with Frederica Eugenia Bertha, younger daughter of Brigade Surgeon W. B. Wallis, L.R.C.S.I., of Old Bank, Colchester, was solemnised in the church of St. Mary-at-the-Walls, Colchester, on the 17th ult. The bride was attired in a dress of rich oyster-white satin duchesse, trimmed with pearl passementerie and orange blossoms; a Grecian train of handsome brocade fell from the shoulders and was lined with satin, and she wore a wreath of orange blossoms and a veil of handsome Limerick lace, the gift of her mother, her only ornament being a pearl and diamond pendant, the gift of her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. C. Adderley. She carried a bouquet of choice white flowers, the gift of the bridegroom. Master Herbert Wallis, her brother, and Miss Christine Brettingham, her niece, carried her train, wearing picturesque Louis XV. costumes. The bridesmaids' tasteful dresses were of white silk; made with Directoire revers and Empire bows of beaver-coloured velvet; hats of beaver trimmed with velvet to match, and clusters of white ostrich tips. The bridegroom presented them with bouquets of lilies of the valley, tied with the colours of his regiment, and gold bangles. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. H. P. Thompson, assisted by the Rev. C. J. Whitehead and the Rev. Canon Irvine. The service was fully choral. A reception was afterwards held at Oak Bank, the residence of the bride's father, and later in the afternoon the bride and bridegroom left for London, *en route* for Cornwall. The bride went away in a dress of velvet, trimmed with handsome jet, with which she wore a large black straw hat, ornamented with feuille verte velvet, violets, and ficelle lace.

The marriage of Captain Richard E. Warden, Royal Artillery, younger son of Mr. Henry Warden, of Tunbridge Wells, to Adelaide, youngest daughter of Mr. J. Coventry I'Anson, of Saltburn, Yorkshire, took place on the 17th ult., in Saltburn parish church. The two bridesmaids were dressed in white diagonal serge, with daffodil silk waistcoats, ornamented with white guipure, and white felt picture hats, with ostrich feathers; they wore gold arrow brooches, with pearl horseshoes, and carried bouquets of daffodils, the gifts of the bridegroom. The bride was attired in a dress of broché silk of handsome feather design, trimmed with ostrich feather bordering; she wore a wreath of orange blossoms, and a tulle veil, fastened by a diamond crescent brooch, the gift of the bridegroom, as was also a white enamel and gold brooch; her bouquet was composed of white lilac and lilies of the valley; her train was borne by Master Rupert Walker, in a white velvet page's costume. The officiating clergy were the Rev. B. Irvin, M.A., vicar of Saltburn, and the Rev. R. T. E. Fausset, M.A. Mrs. I'Anson held an At home after the ceremony, when a large number of relations and friends assembled. Subsequently the bride and bridegroom left for York, *en route* for the Isle of Wight. The bride went away in a costume of beaver-brown vicuna cloth, with brown velvet waistcoat, and cloak and hat to match.

Mr. Herbert A. Wellesley, son of the late Colonel W. H. C. Wellesley (nephew of the great Duke of Wellington), was married to Lotta, daughter of Mr. A. Villiers Palmer, of Naxing Park, Essex, on Monday afternoon, at St. Augustine's Church, Queen's-gate. The bridegroom was accompanied by his brother, Mr. Cecil G. Wellesley, as best man. The bridesmaids were Miss Palmer, sister of the bride; Miss Winifred Wellesley, sister of the bridegroom; Misses May and Lily Hamilton, cousins of the bride; Miss Audrey Chapman, and Miss Evie Cammell. The Rev. R. R. Chope, vicar of St. Augustine's, officiated, the bride being given away by her father. A reception was afterwards held by the bride's parents at their residence in Atherstone-terrace, South Kensington, and the newly-wedded couple left later for North Devon.

The marriage of Mr. Henry Sarsfield Bascom, son of the late Mr. Henry Sarsfield Bascom, of Georgetown, Demerara, with Jessie, fourth surviving daughter of the late Sir James Walker, C.B., K.C.M.G., of Southerton, Ottery St. Mary, was celebrated on the 17th ult., at St. John's Church, Reading. The ceremony was

performed by the Rev. Charles E. Littledale, M.A., rector of Shepperton, assisted by the Rev. Gilbert M. Scott, M.A., brother-in-law of the bride, and the Rev. Canon Payne, M.A., vicar of the parish. The bride wore a dress composed of an ivory satin petticoat, trimmed with embroidered chiffon, orange blossoms, and jessamine, with train of richly brocaded satin, and a tulle veil, arranged over a wreath of orange blossom, was fastened with a diamond new moon, the gift of the bridegroom, who also gave the bouquet which she carried. The four bridesmaids were dressed in cream corduroy, trimmed with gold, and hats to match. They carried baskets of violets and white flowers, and wore gold brooches with pearls, the gift of the bridegroom. After the ceremony, Mrs. Gilbert Scott, sister of the bride, received the wedding party at St. Edmunds, and, later in the afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Bascom left for St. Leonards, the bride travelled in a costume of ruby corduroy, with bonnet cloak to match.

The marriage of Mr. Harry Edward Sheppard, only son of the late Mr. Henry Wilson Sheppard, of Brampton Abbotts, Herefordshire, and nephew of the late Mr. John George Sheppard, of Campsley Ashe, Suffolk, with Alexandra Aethel, youngest daughter of the Rev. William Bagnall-Oakeley, of Newland, was celebrated on Thursday week at All Saints' Church, Newland, Gloucestershire. The bride wore a dress of rich white brocaded silk, made with a full Court train; the petticoat of quilted satin was studded with pearls, and antique Brussels lace, caught with sprays of orange blossom, was arranged on each side, and draped the train. She wore a veil of lace to match that on her dress and a wreath of orange blossoms, and carried a bouquet of white orchids, gardenias, lilies of the valley, and orange blossoms, which, with a gold bracelet, was the gift of the bridegroom. Six bridesmaids were in attendance, wearing costumes of pale blue Surah silk, with zouave bodices, and Swiss belts of dark blue velvet, and velvet hats to match, trimmed with light and dark blue wings. Each wore a daisy brooch in pearls and diamonds, and carried a posy bouquet of orchids and myosotis, the gift of the bridegroom. The Rev. James Oakeley, uncle of the bride, performed the nuptial rite, assisted by the Rev. A. N. Scott, vicar of Newland. The Hon. and Rev. Leonard Tyrwhitt, cousin of the bridegroom, was unable to assist owing to illness. The ceremony over, the wedding guests were welcomed by the bride's parents at their residence, and later in the day the newly-wedded pair left for Italy. The bride departed in a dress of brown cloth, with a vest of cream silk and gold passementerie, sealskin coat and brown hat, trimmed with ostrich feathers.

The marriage of Mr. Francis Willes Little, of Dorking, and his cousin, Miss Margaret Little, second daughter of Mr. George Little, of Springfield, Worle, took place on the 18th ult. at St. Martin's Church, Worle. The bride wore white Bengaline, trimmed with ostrich feathers and orange blossoms, a wreath of similar flowers, and tulle veil. She carried an exquisite shower bouquet, the gift of the bridegroom, whose other gifts included a diamond arrow and pearl and diamond bangle. The three bridesmaids (sisters of the bride) wore grey dresses, with pink silk trimmings, and picture hats, with pink ostrich tips. Their bouquets, composed of pink anemones and lilies of the valley, and love-bird pearl brooches, were also the gift of the bridegroom. Master Geoffrey Biggs acted as page; The ceremony was performed by the Rev. T. W. Little, of St. Cuthbert's, Gateshead-on-Tyne, assisted by the Rev. W. F. Rose (vicar) and the Rev. S. Chamberlain. A reception was afterwards held at Springfield, a large number of guests being present. The newly-wedded couple subsequently left for London, *en route* for Italy, the bride's going-away dress being a blue one, with beaver trimmings.

The marriage of Captain N. D. Findlay, of the Royal Artillery, son of the late Mr. T. D. Findlay, of Glasgow and Easterhill, Lanarkshire, with Miss Alma Lloyd, daughter of Mr. Thomas Lloyd, J.P., of Minard Castle, Inverary, N.B., and Lowndes-square, took place on the 17th ult. at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. H. Montagu Villiers, M.A., vicar of St. Paul's, assisted by the Rev. James Baden Powell, M.A., precentor. The bride wore a dress of the richest white satin duchesse, the skirt being draped with lace, and made with a long train, the bodice trimmed with a deep collarette of the same lace. Her veil covered a tiara of orange blossoms, fastened by diamond sprays. There was only one bridesmaid, the bride's sister, who was dressed in white-figured silk, the skirt being edged with white ostrich feather bordering; the bodice was trimmed with white chiffon and ostrich feathers; she wore a long ostrich feather boa, and a large white felt hat, ornamented to match. The bridegroom presented her with a gold safety pin brooch set with diamonds, and a bouquet of pale pink roses tied with pink streamers. The ceremony over, the bridal party adjourned to 60, Lowndes-square, where Mrs. Lloyd held a reception. Early in the afternoon the newly-wedded pair left for Leghorn.

The marriage between Mr. George Leigh King, eldest son of the late Major King, 55th Regiment, and Emily, eldest daughter of Mr. Edwyn Sandys Dawes, of Mount Ephraim, took place on the 18th ult. at St. Michael's, Hernhill, Faversham. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. W. D. Springett, D.D., vicar of the parish; the Rev. C. F. Mortlake, vicar of Bersted, Bognor (brother-in-law of the bride); and the Rev. Maxwell Spooner, vicar of Holy Trinity, Maidstone. The bride wore an Empire dress of white satin bouillonné, with orange blossom round the skirt; a long brocade train from the shoulders, real orange blossom in her hair, and tulle veil fastened with diamonds. Her bouquet was lilies of the valley and shamrock. The four bridesmaids wore Empire dresses of cream crêpon, trimmed with pale apple-green velvet, and hats of green lace straw, with cream tips and Rose du Barri velvet bows. They carried bouquets of pink roses and shamrock tied with pink and green ribbons, and each wore a gold shamrock leaf with a diamond in the centre, the gift of the bridegroom. After the ceremony Mrs. Dawes held a reception. Among the guests were Colonel and Mrs. Edward Keppell, Rev. H. and Mrs. Rolt, Miss Rolt, Rev. L. E. and Lady Mary Goodwin, Rev. H., Mrs. and Miss Hitchens, Sir Henry, Lady and Miss Green, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Waterfield, General and Mrs. Money, Mrs. Crawshay, Miss Hilton, Rev. C. and Mrs. Ramsden, Colonel and Mrs. Trueman, Mr. and Mrs. Goodheart, Canon and Mrs. Scott Robertson, &c. Mr. and Mrs. George Leigh King left for London *en route* for Torquay at four o'clock. The travelling-dress was Empire fawn cloth, trimmed with china blue silk, and fawn and blue passementerie, Tudor cloak of fawn lined with blue silk, and bordered with two rows of brown fox fur, collar to match, blue velvet hat covered with tan guipure lace, large velvet bows, and owl's quills.

The marriage of Mr. Charles Oman, Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford, and Miss Mary M. Maclagan, daughter of General Robert Maclagan, and niece of the Archbishop of York, was solemnised on Tuesday afternoon in St. Mary Abbott's Church, Kensington. The children bridesmaids, cousins of the bride, were Miss Louisa Trench, Miss Dora Maclagan, Miss Julia Hamilton Dunlop, and Miss Dorothy Gervais. Captain R. S. Maclagan, R.E., acted as best man. The Archbishop of York officiated, assisted by the Bishop of Southwell, Canon Trench (cousin of the bride), and the Rev. and Hon. E. Carr Glyn, vicar of Kensington. The bride was given away by her father. The wedding party afterwards re-assembled at the South Kensington Hotel, and later in the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Charles Oman started for Italy.

The marriage of Mr. Denis Potts-Chatto, of The Daison, Torquay, and Catherine, eldest daughter of General Drury, of Kenilworh, Torquay, took place at St. Mary's Church, Torquay, on Tuesday. The bride was given away by her father. Mr. R. Garrard, cousin of the bridegroom, was best man, and the bridesmaids were Miss Drury, Miss Wallace, and Miss Beatty. The service was performed by the Rev. Canon Brownlow, Father Le Maitre, and Father Rocke.

The marriage of Mr. Harold Gordon, of Vellajoya, Ceylon, fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Gordon, of Winchcombe Park, Shaftesbury, to Miss Mabel Louisa Dyke, eldest daughter of the Rev. Percival Hart-Dyke, rector of Compton, took place in the church of St. Mary's, Compton Abbas, Dorsetshire. The bride was dressed in a charming costume of ivory-white satin, with a Court train, and veil and ruffles of valuable old lace, and she carried a beautiful bouquet, and wore a pearl necklace with a diamond clasp (the gift of the bridegroom). There were four bridesmaids, who were attired in pale blue crépon, with yokes and sleeves of black lace, with black velvet hats with blue plumes. Each carried bouquets of lilies of the valley and white tulips, and wore gold bangles and gold forehead safety-pin brooches (the gift of the bridegroom). The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Canon Glyn, assisted by the Rev. W. P. Broughton, brother-in-law of the bride. Subsequently, the newly-wedded couple left for London. The bride's going-away dress was of fawn crépon, with yoke of black lace; black hat trimmed with blue satin and feathers.

A very successful fancy dress ball for children was lately given by the Mayor and Mayoress of Birkenhead (Mr. and Mrs. Willmer) at the Townhall. On arriving the little guests were received by the Mayor and Miss Willmer, who were supported by Masters Charles and Walter Willmer, grandsons of the Mayor, clad in the picturesque costumes of the little Princes in the Tower, their miniature Royal chains lending them the appearance of youthful mayors. In the ballroom the scene was one of unequalled splendour in the annals of Birkenhead civic festivities. The gay dresses of the children, the bright blooms of the floral decorations, the varitinted hangings with which the large mirrors were artistically draped—all formed a huge kaleidoscope. The costumes were remarkable for the novelty they displayed. Among those which attracted most attention were King Arthur (Austin Clover), in light blue robes, plumed helmet with vizor raised, and cuirass; A Lancashire Witch (Miss Helen Schofield) who, true to the traditions of her calling, was accompanied by her familiar the black cat (a stuffed one), which reposed eerily on her shoulder; Little Primrose (Poppie Hurst), in a smock of primrose satin, with wreaths of primroses hanging from every available point; a young Chinese Mandarin (Arthur Leslie Sole), attired in the correct national robes, with shaven head; a Japanese Lady of Fashion, Lord Nelson (Harry Gaskell), Jack Point (Benj. Haram), Robinson Crusoe (Edwin Burcell), Titania (Mabel Priestly), &c. In the middle of the evening the ballroom was cleared, and, the Mayor and Mayoress taking their seats, the children were marched round the room three abreast, each bowing as they passed their host and hostess. The spectators in the gallery were thus afforded an excellent opportunity of viewing all the costumes. The special feature of the entertainment was the quaint *menuet de la cour*, danced by sixteen of Mrs. Batt's pupils in a manner deserving of great praise.

The Batchelors' Ball took place recently at Newark, when the Townhall presented an unusually gay and picturesque scene. No more delightful event has taken place for a long time past, and it was gladly admitted by all present that better arrangements for the enjoyment of the guests could not have been made. The ladies had their hair powdered, and wore patches, while many of the gentlemen wore pink coats. The bouquets were mainly of violets, but there were some lovely ones of red and white roses and stephanotis. The dresses of the ladies were charming, some of the costumes being made of exceedingly rich materials. In colour, white, blue, and *bois de rose* were the prevailing hues, the material being chiefly moires, rich brochés, duchesse satins, *peau de soie*, and Bengalines. Many of them were made with Swiss belts and Watteau bows, with long trains. The bodices were chiefly cut round and short, in the shape worn during the early part of the eighteenth century. Several ladies wore magnificent diamonds and pearls.

A ladies' flower ball lately took place at Cheltenham at the Assembly Rooms, and passed off most successfully. The rooms were lit with the electric light, shaded with soft pink to subdue any excessive glare. Some of the ladies dresses were both handsome and useful. Mrs. Ferguson wore a dress of pink and black, trimmed with pink hyacinths, and carried a bouquet of exotics. The Misses Yardley were in pale green silk, trimmed with deep pink poppies. Miss Blair wore a charming dress of ivory white brocade, with fringes of Neapolitan violets, and bouquets of the same on the shoulders; she carried a posy bouquet of real violets, tied with violet and white ribbon. The Misses Donald were in pretty dresses of pink Bengaline with pink roses to match. Mrs. Bell was in white silk, with white silk trimmings of Indian embroidery. Dancing was kept up till past three o'clock to the strain of Mr. Pollock's band. Great credit is due to those ladies whose excellent arrangement tended to make the ball a complete success.

The hunt ball, which forms the leading reunion of the Warwickshire season, was held at the County Hall, Warwick, last week, and attended by a large company, including Lord Willoughby de Broke, Viscount and Viscountess Lifford, the Dowager Countess of Aylesford and Lady Hilda Finch, Lord and Lady Ernest Seymour, Hon. W. F. North, Sir Pery Van Notten-Pole, and members of most of the county families and followers of the hunt. The ball-room was magnificently upholstered in Indian art muslin, on which were displayed trophies of the chase,

Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Albert Brassey gave their annual ball at Heythrop, Oxon, on the 17th, when a large gathering of the neighbouring gentry flocked to this beautiful house. The decorations were superb, the orchids being especially fine. The Hon. Mrs. Albert Brassey received her guests in the library, and dancing took place in the hall, which was beautifully embellished from the hot-houses and banks of spring flowers embedded in moss, which had come from abroad. There was a large house party, including Viscount Cantelupe and his bride, Lord and Lady Clanmorris, Viscount and Viscountess Valentia, &c.

CHIT CHAT.

The Empress of Austria lately ordered that 50,000 rose trees should be planted around the statue of Heine, to be erected on her property at Corfu, on a rock over 2,000ft. above the level of the sea.

Natal is now entering into the competition for the supply of tea. Its first consignment, consisting of about 15,000lbs., appeared at Mincing-lane on Wednesday. The prices realised were comparatively low. Fears of the failure of the coffee crop seem to have first prompted the Colonists to seriously contemplate tea cultivation, but although a few samples were obtained from Kew many years ago, the actual beginning of the industry seems to have been only made in 1877, when Assam hybrid and Assam indigenous seed were imported from Calcutta. Since that date steady progress has been made, and even in 1884 the Assistant Executive Commissioner of Natal reported that over 50,000lb. were produced and disposed of locally.

It is reported from Milan that Signor Sonzogno, the eminent music publisher, has received no less than sixty-one one-act operatic scores in response to the fresh competition recently invited by him. Fifty-six of this number have been admitted by the jury of experts, whose decision is to be made known some time during next month.

It is interesting to note the qualifications of an English curate 138 years ago, as described in the *Reading Mercury* of 1753. A clergyman advertised for a curate, who would have "easy duty, and a salary of about £50 per annum, besides valuable perquisites." The advertisement continues:—"He must be zealousy affected to the present Government, and never forsake his principles; singular in his morals, sober and abstemious, grave in his dress and deportment, choice in his company, and exemplary in his conversation. He must be of superior abilities, studious and careful in his employment of time, a lover of fiddling, but no dancer."

Another member of that ring of planets between Mars and Jupiter, which is one of the most curious, and may some day prove to be also one of the most instructive' features of our solar system, has been discovered by Professor Palisa, of Vienna, and reported to the Astronomer-Royal. Its place is 156deg. 34 minutes right ascension, and 82deg. 19 minutes North Polar distance. Baby planetoid is of the eleventh magnitude.

In the course of the coming month a French expedition sets out for the Polar regions. The officers composing it began their course of instruction in the use of magnetic instruments last week. They will proceed to Jan Meyen Island and Spitzbergen, the object of their labours being to complete the observatIons of the Swedish and Austrian expeditions in 1882, both of which were stationed at too great a distance from the Pole.

A meeting of the Parliamentary Committee for the promotion of the Birmingham Bishopric Bill has been held in Birmingham, the Bishop of Worcester presiding, when the prospects of the Bill were considered. It was pointed out that, in view of the opposition which has arisen in various quarters to the scheme as introduced in the form of a Private Bill, it was almost impossible to proceed further with any expectation of success. It was accordingly decided to call a meeting of the General Committee forthwith, to pass resolutions, probably for the abandonment of the present Bill and the return of the subscriptions already paid in towards the Endowment Fund. A general hope was expressed that the scheme would be resuscitated in some other form, possibly by joining with other dioceses in the promotion of a public Bill for the creation of several new Sees. The Chairman promised that if the new scheme was promoted on identical lines with the present, he would contribute £500 a year towards the income.

M. Eugéne Caustier has written a remarkable volume on the employment of pigeons in warfare, full of curious statistics as to the speed, distance, and duration of the flight of carrier-pigeons. A pigeon let loose at Dover simultaneously with the departure of the boat express made a few circles and started, reaching its dovecote in London twenty minutes before the train steamed into the terminus. In 1884 four pigeons flew from Paris to Buda-Pesth in seven hours. This speed outstrips a hurricane by eleven mètres a second. A pigeon is capable of carrying, in microscopic despatches, matter that would fill volumes in ordinary type. There are about 100,000 trained pigeons in France.

The daily addresses under the dome of St. Paul's, at 1.15 p.m., during the first week in Lent, will be taken, on the invitation of the Dean of St. Paul's, by the Rev. Handley Moule, Principal of Ridley Hall, and formerly Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Mr. Moule is described as a mission preacher of great spiritual power, having wide influence with the undergraduates. He is the author of a large number of popular religious works, which have an extensive circulation.

The directors of the Great Northern Railway Company have decided, in response to an extensively signed memorial from the leading inhabitants of South Lincolnshire, and from the Royal Society of British Architects, to preserve the unique Tudor relic at Bourne known as the "Old Red Hall." It was in this historic building, it is said, that the Guy Fawkes conspiracy and the Lincolnshire Anti-Reformation rebellion, in 1535, were concocted.

Sadler's Wells has existed longer as a theatre than any other house in London save Drury Lane. The Globe, at Bankside, where Shakespeare acted, is supposed to have been the first English patent theatre, and was opened in 1574. Both the Globe and the Duke's Theatre, in Lincoln's-inn-fields, opened in 1662, have, of course, long since disappeared, and Drury Lane, which has existed since 1663, will possibly be pulled down at the expiration of its present lease. Sadler's Wells dates from 1683, when a caterer named Sadler built an orchestra there for the entertainment of the invalids who frequented the medical "wells."

The French subscription for presenting to the Pope a new church at Rome, to be called, after him, St. Joachim, now amounts to 135,000f.

The Dean and Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral have decided that an orchestral band shall in future accompany special musical services in the Cathedral. The first occasion will be the morning of Easter Day.

The number of children in Church schools in the diocese of London last year was 134,704, an increase of nearly 5,000. The total number withdrawn from religious instruction was 923, 341 wholly and 582 partially. It is noteworthy that whilst the withdrawals have increased by 302 since 1882 the number of children on the books during the same period has risen by over 15,000.

Between April 1, 1891, and February 27, 1892, the total receipts into the Exchequer amounted to £81,305,099, as compared with £81,587,558 in the corresponding period of the last financial year; and the expenditure to £80,017,656, as against £77,148,013. On Saturday last the Treasury balance stood at £6,682,611, and on the same date in the previous year at £9,394,520.

One of Mdme. Bernhardt's costumes—and she has wore it in a New York theatre—is of ivory satin, with the bodice profusely ornamented with diamonds and turquoise. It is reckoned that 200 animals were required to provide sufficient ermine to line the train; while the blue order on the silk s irt is composed of of a band of 1,800 turquoise, the value being stated to be over £1,000.

When, last week, the books of the Primrose League were audited, it was found that the members numbered no fewer than 1,051,737.

A marble tablet in memory of the late Dean Elliot has been placed in Bristol Cathedral. The inscription is from the pen of Dr. Butler, Master of Trinity, Cambridge.

A question has been raised as to the property qualification for County Councillors. It is urged that by way of qualification under the Local Government Act a County Councillor must either be rated at £30 a-year, or must possess personality valued at £1,000, or must be on the "ownership list," or must be a Peer of the realm, owning property in the country. If this were maintained, a good many of the present candidates for County Councils would be invalidated; but the opinion of the President of the Local Government Board—who ought to know—is that these qualifications are overridden by other parts of the Act.

A sum of £3,000 and another of £1,000 have been promised towards the building of a chapel for Selwyn College, Cambridge, on condition that the remaining £8,000 required for the chapel is raised by gifts of not less than £1,000 within the year.

Some butterflies were exhibited at the meeting of the Zoological Society on Tuesday, remarkable for their power of uttering a sound. The "stridulating" produced by the insects exhibited at the Zoological Society is not supposed to be a portent foretelling a plague, as the French bishops regarded the "plaintive cry" of the death's head. It is believed to delight the opposite sex, and to inform them of the whereabouts of their mates. But it is not confined to the males. The sexes of some species possess an equal power of making themselves heard.

It is said that the old half-timbered house at Fenny Drayton, the birthplace of George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, has recently been sold to some American gentlemen. Disappointed at not being able to purchase anything at Stratford-on-Avon, they were determined to have something from Shakespeare's country. The house, which now stands on the estate of Captain Eyre, of Lindley, is now being taken down bit by bit, and each part carefully marked and packed for shipping to America, where it will be re-erected. It is stated that the price paid for it was considered to be three or four times its value for ordinary purposes.

The honours of Antarctic exploration are again to be contested by British seamen. Captain Grey, of Peterhead, an experienced Scotch whaler, is filled with a desire to test the truth of the reports of Sir James Ross as to the existence of extensive whaling grounds in the Southern Seas; and he is so convinced that exploration will substantiate the veteran explorer's statements that he and a number of his friends have provided sufficient funds to equip one whaler to proceed to the Antarctic regions in the course of this year, and it is expected that enough money will be raised to send a consort with her. The scientific aspects of the expedition will not be wholly neglected, though they will naturally be subordinated to the commercial. It is understood that Dr. Nordenskjöld, son of Baron Nordenskjöld, the eminent Norwegian Arctic explorer, will act as medical officer to the expedition, and will be given opportunities for scientific research. With respect to the trading side of the enterprise, it is stated that the cost of despatching two ships fully equipped will be £24,000, and if they meet with the success anticipated they will secure oil and whalebone to the value of £45,000. Quite apart from the geographical value of the work, this would leave an estimated profit of £21,000.

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